St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes (902) 535-2053 Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: <u>bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com</u>

September 12, 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



And Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he charged them to tell no one about him (Mark 8:27-30).

The Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary, which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded.

Sunday Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 50:5-9. The prophet Isaiah describes some of the sufferings which the Messiah will endure.

The **Second Reading** is from the Letter of St. James 2:14-18 and is a continuation of the practical guidance we heard two Sundays ago. Christians must be "doers of the word not hearers only."

The Gospel is from St. Mark 8:27-35. We need not be surprised at the slowness of the Apostles in grasping the messiahship of Jesus. He did not want the crowds who flocked to him to know this until later — after his resurrection — because they had the idea that the Messiah would be a political leader who would set them free from their subjection to pagan Rome. It was not until this occasion, near Caesarea Philippi, somewhat over a year after he had called them, that he admitted to his Apostles that he was the Messiah. He charged them not to make this fact known outside of their own limited circle. To forestall and erase any wrong ideas of a political leader which some of the Apostles might have, he immediately foretold the sufferings and death he would have to endure at the hands of the leaders of the Jews. He would be conquered and humiliated by his enemies but their victory would be short-lived —death would not hold him — he would rise triumphant on the third day.

To the Apostles this seemed incredible and Peter, their spokesman, told him so. This outlook of the Apostles is also very understandable. They had seen him work many miracles, God was evidently very near to him: how could God let his enemies humiliate and kill him? They did not know God's plan, they were fishermen and knew little if anything of the Old Testament messianic prophecies. Had they read of the Suffering Servant in second-Isaiah they would not have disbelieved the prophecy of his forthcoming sufferings, death and resurrection. And his mention of his resurrection after three days, which would prove that it was he and not his enemies who conquered, fell on deaf ears, because the idea of a resurrection of that kind was incomprehensible to them. We know how slow they were to accept his resurrection even after it had happened.

Although the message was only vaguely and dubiously grasped, Christ had forewarned his Apostles (he repeated this twice later: Mk. 9: 9-10; 31-32 and 10: 32-34), so as to prepare them for the scandal of the cross. While it did not really prepare them because they were still too worldly-minded, it did help to strengthen their faith once the facts convinced them of the resurrection. They then realized that their beloved Master was more than Messiah, that he was in fact the Son of God, who with knowledge aforethought freely accepted his humiliations and shameful death for their sakes and ours. They gladly gave their lives to bringing this news of God's great love for men to all nations. From being a scandal the cross became the emblem and the proud standard of God's love for mankind.

We are in the happy position of the Apostles after the resurrection of Jesus. We know how much God loves us; we appreciate the humiliation that the incarnation brought on his beloved Son and the sufferings and cruel death which the sins of the world, ours included, brought on the Son of God. All of this took place because God wished to make us his adopted sons and worthy of the inheritance he had planned for us. For a faithful and grateful Christian, however, theoretical appreciation is not enough. Atonement has been made for our sins, but we have still a very important part to play. Our sins can be forgiven but we must truly repent of them before God will forgive them.

St. Mark adds some words of Christ which illustrate what practical form our appreciation and gratitude for Christ's sufferings should take. We must be ready to follow him on the road to Calvary. We must deny ourselves — deprive ourselves not only of sinful pleasure or gain, but even of lawful things at times, in order to be Christ-like. We must take up our cross and follow him. This does not mean that we must search for crosses — there are plenty of them in any good Christian's life — but we must gladly accept the crosses life brings us and see in them God's means of keeping us close to him.

Life on earth is very short, eternal life is endless. No thinking man, and certainly no true Christian, would risk losing the eternal life for the sake of a few paltry gains or a few extra years here below.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Sacrament of Baptism

please call the office: Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699 Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011 Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.

Call Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia to register for upcoming courses 902-849-4772. Ask for Tasia Boucher, tboucher@fsens.ns.ca

Weekday Liturgy

Monday, September 13, 2021

SJB 11:00 AM Mass of the Resurrection +Peter Boyd

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

SP 11:00AM Memorial Mass and Burial +Anna Mae Stone

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

HGA Mass 11:00 AM

+Arisma Gauvin

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Richmond Villa 10:30 AM

Not open to the public.

SJB Mass 4:00 PM

Friday, September 17, 2021

SP Mass 9:00 AM

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, September 18, 2021

SJB 2:00PM

Wedding Gregory Osborne & Christine Pottie

SH Mass 4:00 PM HGA Mass 5:30 PM

+ Sabine & Charles Sampson & deceased family members

Sunday, September 19, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Evelina Mancini

SP 10:30 AM

<u>Please note:</u> Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office, not with Fr. Yake.

<u>First Communion Certificates</u> for children who made first Communion on July 13, 2021 can be picked up at glebe house during office hours.

(September 5, 2021 receipts)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes	\$811.00
Candles	18.05

Total <u>\$ 829.05</u>

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,000.00	
Candles	6.00	

Saint John the Baptist

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 1,205.00
Roof Fund	100.00
Cemetery	500.00

Total \$ <u>1,805.00</u>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. Peter's Parish Council Meeting

Monday, October18, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

<u>Knights of Columbus regular meeting</u> on Thursday Sept. 16th at 6:30 PM in the basement of the glebe.

<u>Richmond Branch of the RTO</u> A general meeting of the Richmond Branch of the RTO will be held at Louis Cosy Corner Restaurant on September 14th at 9:30am. Covid 19 protocol is in effect.

Phyllis Cote, President

Sundays with Fr Patrick and John Ratchford 7 pm on Facebook Live

Featuring conversations about church teachings and issues Join live or watch later on Fr Patrick's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill

In the Diocese

Restoration Project Update:

St. Ninian Cathedral

The cathedral walls contain a unique and prized collection of murals painted by Ozias Leduc in 1902. Since 2012, anonymous donations have funded restoration of seven saints in the naive, and the two angels over the sanctuary's arches. This summer, Michelle Gallinger and her team are working on four more saints: Saint James the Lesser, Saint Simon, Saint Thaddeus, and Saint Thomas. Removing layers of paint, plaster and time are a painstaking and expensive task, but the reward is a priceless collection of sacred art and a piece of our history in a condition and space we can all enjoy. To learn more and support the restoration:

https://saintninian.ca/restoration-project

September 20

is Federal Election Day

Catholic Conscience is a new online resource with information on both provincial and federal election processes and how to select the candidate for your vote. From the website:

"Catholics are called to participate, in accordance with the full measure of talents entrusted to them by God. At a minimum, this means voting wisely after having considered all relevant issues, the positions of each of the

candidates and parties, and relevant Church teachings." **Read more on the website:**

https://catholicconscience.org/

Two Letters from Bishop Kirkpatrick

1. September 8, 2021 (Feast of the Birth of Mary)

My Dear People,

We hope that September will bring greater freedom if we enter Phase 5 later this month and yet clearly, we continue to struggle with the uncertainties of COVID-19. We need to remain vigilant. We extend greetings to people of Polish descent as we say happy Nova Scotia Polish Heritage Month. September 21 marks the 100th anniversary that the Sisters of St. Martha moved from the College to Bethany. Bethany Centennial Garden will officially open on this same day. The 52nd International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest that had been delayed due to the COVID-19 opened on September 6th.

Reflections on the Twenty-Third Sunday Year B - Jesus calls us to be open to him.

The prophet Isaiah in our first reading this past Sunday instructs us, say to those of fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...He will come and save you." God is still alive and working within us and among us. What a universal and timeless message for us this past Sunday. We have so many issues that cause us to be anxious today. We are concerned about all the people who suffer from the wild fires, flooding, tropical storms and earthquakes. We are concerned about the people of Afghanistan. We are concerned about the implications of our own political elections. We are concerned about the new school year and about the on-going and ever-changing variants of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are concerned about all the personal worries and health concerns that threaten to overwhelm us.

We all have challenging issues to face as individuals and as a faith community. It is very tempting to just look away, to shut down, to close our hearts to those situations. What Jesus said to the deaf mute in the gospel, what James wrote to the early Christians about welcoming the poor are the words Jesus addresses to us today, 'Ephphatha' be opened.

All of us are a little deaf and speechless, maybe not exactly the same as the man presented to Jesus in the gospel. Yet often enough we fail to listen and grasp the real meaning of what is happening around us. We may hear people speak, but we fail to listen to what they are saying. By touching the man's ear first, perhaps Jesus was teaching us to listen before we speak. This message fits in well with the synodal process, outlined below.

The Mission of the Baptized

By his words and deeds, Jesus demonstrates that he is the fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Isaiah. Clearly, Jesus came to touch our lives and help us break through the barriers that separate us from one another. He offers us the same words he offered to the deaf man in the gospel: "Be

opened!" This miracle has been incorporated into the baptismal liturgy in the 'Ephphatha' prayer. This prayer is offered at the conclusion of the baptismal rite. "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father." Jesus came to liberate us, to "open" us, to enable us to fully live our relationship with God and with others. That is why this word, "Ephphatha - Be opened," sums up the entire mission of Jesus Christ.

Many concerns and issues are before us as we continue to deal with COVID-19 and as we enter into a new school year with our educational and faith formation programs before us. It promises to be a challenging year as we address many seemingly diverse concerns. I think they can be all tied together by focusing on how we live out our baptismal call. The sacrament of baptism empowers us to be ambassadors for Christ. With this sacrament, we put on Christ and take up the mission of the Gospel. Through the waters of baptism, we are empowered to live the radical lifestyle modeled by Jesus Christ. The second reading this past Sunday cautions us about treating others according to a double standard. Jesus challenges us to open our senses, recognize the plight of those around us, and courageously do whatever we can to assist them and correct the social ills, even within the Church. Be opened.

Indian Residential Schools

As a faith community, I hope we can begin to address and better understand our church's role with Indian Residential Schools. Instead of promoting a culture that values and cherishes every life, we somehow supported and enabled a system that separated children from their families, culture and way of life and put them in place where they were often underfed, neglected and abused. This a "teachable moment" for all of us and we must learn from it. October 1 is Treaty Day in our province. Now September 30th has been declared "Truth and Reconciliation Day" in Canada. This day will become an annual federal statutory holiday to help educate us by focusing our awareness across our nation. Each province will determine how they will honour this day. We must determine what we can do to promote "Truth and Reconciliation" not only on one day, but throughout the year.

We are inspired by the gospel to do our best to see the whole picture, hear the entire story and speak the complete truth, no matter how difficult, challenging or disconcerting it may be. Jesus challenges us to open our senses and do what is necessary to assist; in short to offer hope. Be opened.

Worldpriest Award to Canada

To offer prayer and support for our priests, in 2002 St. John Paul II designated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart to be a World Day of Prayer for Priests. The aim was to invite all the clergy and all the faithful of the Church to join in prayer for the sanctification of priests.

In 2010, Worldpriest began an Annual Rosary Relay on this feast day. Worldpriest is a global lay organization devoted to affirming and supporting the priesthood through ministry and prayer, especially with their Annual Global Rosary Relay. Supported by Pope Francis, this is a day to encircle the world in prayer for all priests. Each of the participating prayer locations in over seventy countries pray a particular mystery of the Rosary on the feast day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in

thanksgiving to God for our priests and to implore the protection and loving care of Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary who is the Mother of all priests. As we celebrate the Birth of Mary, we are reminded of her openness at the Annunciation. God's eternal plan began in time because of Mary's consent to be the mother of Jesus. May we be as open so that Christ may live in and through us.

Worldpriest selects and presents a country with the award of Outstanding Participation and Promotion in the Global Rosary Relay. This year, Canada was selected for the award since in just two years Canada more than doubled its participation to include every province and all of the Northwest Territories. This year a record number of people gathered in individual parishes throughout Canada to pray for priests on June 12. I note this date, since it was more than two weeks after news about the unmarked burial sites at the Kamloops Indian Residential School came to light.

The Diocese of Antigonish was selected to receive this award on behalf of the Church of Canada since Isabel Gillis, the Worldpriest Representative for Canada is a member of our Diocese. We decided that this award be presented on our diocesan feast day. A plaque will be placed in St. Ninian Cathedral. Further information about Worldpriest is available on their website: https://www.worldpriest.com/

Feast of St. Ninian, Our Diocesan Patron Saint September 16

The presentation of the Worldpriest plaque will take place at the Cathedral as we gather to celebrate Mass on the feast of St. Ninian on Thursday, September 16 at 12 noon. Worldpriest have requested that this Mass will be videoed so that it may be shared worldwide. I am inviting you to attend but there is limited seating due to the COVID restrictions.

Awaiting COVID-19 Update

Speaking of COVID restrictions, once the province reaches 75% full vaccination, we hope to enter into Phase Five in mid September. We are not sure what this will mean given the rise of the more infectious Delta variant and now the Mu variant found in 39 countries including South America and Europe. Most likely, we will required to wear masks for indoor gatherings for the foreseeable future. https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-francis-appeal-covid-19-vaccines-act-of-love.html

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Instituted by Pope Francis in 2015 after the release of his environmental encyclical "Laudato Si," the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation takes place each year on Sept. 1. This Day of Prayer is in keeping with themes expressed in the encyclical, and is also seen as a sign of unity with the Orthodox Church, which established September 1 as a day to celebrate creation in 1989. Beginning on September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which continues until October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the faithful of the world are encouraged to renew the relationship with our Creator and all of creation through this celebration. It is a time for to consider making concrete changes to our lifestyle. The theme this year is "A Home for All? Renewing God's oikos." Oikos is a Greek word for home or household. Clearly, we are witnessing the effects of climate change in our world with the extreme temperatures, droughts, wildfires and

floods. We must do whatever we can, however insignificant, to help reverse climate change. Be opened.

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023

Pope Francis will open the upcoming Synod on 9-10 October 2021, in Rome. The following Sunday, 17 October 2021, each Bishop is invited to open the Synod in his respective diocese. The synodal journey is divided into three phases, diocesan, continental and universal, culminating with the General Ordinary Assembly in October 2023.

The Synod of Bishops was established in 1965 by Pope Paul VI, who hoped that the synod would encourage close union between the pope and the world's bishops, and "ensure that direct and real information is provided on questions and situations touching upon the internal action of the Church and its necessary activity in the world of today."

Pope Francis reminds us that, "a synodal Church is a Church that listens, which realizes that listening is 'more than simply hearing'. It is a listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth'. It is a time of walking together, a time to open up, to listen to one another carefully, to interpret the signs of the times in the world around us in light of the gospel.

The theme of this upcoming synod is "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission." The first stage of the synodal process consists in consulting the People of God, in order to listen "to what the Spirit is saying to the Church." The bishop opens the Synod in his diocese, to initiate and guide the consultation, and to preside over the pre-synodal meeting that closes the diocesan phase, by gathering all the responses to questionnaire and sending them to the C.C.C.B. The *Preparatory Document* and the *Vademecum for the Synod* were just presented in Rome. We need to plan and prepare for our participation in this synod. We want people of every parish to be involved in this process. Be opened. Stay safe and keep well.

 $\underline{https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-09/the-synod-listening-to-the-faithful-preparatory-document.html}$

https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/0540/01156.html#INGLESEOK

https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/0541/01166.html

2. September 9, 2021

My Dear People,

In providing a COVID -19 update yesterday, Premier Tim Houston and Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that the province would most likely enter Phase Five effective September 15 at 12:01 a.m. This means that wearing face masks, maintaining physical distancing, and contact tracing will no longer be mandatory and there will be no indoor gathering

limits. While masking will no longer be mandatory indoors, it will be strongly recommended that people wear their masks indoors especially with close contact with others. https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-five/

As Bishop, I support this directive and I instruct that our churches be fully opened without the need for social distancing effective September 15. I recommend that we continue to wear masks not only to ensure the safety of all, but also to provide some measure of comfort for those who may be returning to church. Those people who may not be able to attend church for health reasons and those who care for them are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Some further good news is that we can return to how we celebrated Mass in the past including singing at Mass. Perhaps we could ease into implementing such changes gradually as people become more comfortable. I was pleased to hear at this COVID update that practising one's faith was deemed to be an essential activity. Indeed, our faith is essential to us.

Amid this year of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and patron saint of Canada, I note that this COVID Update came on the Feast of the Birth of Mary and that Phase Five will be effective on September 15, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Throughout this pandemic, many of these positive announcements came on Marian feast days. Many prayers to Mary, the Mother of the Church and to St. Joseph, patron saint and protector of the universal Church have been offered this year guiding us in the path of life. I believe in the power of prayer. Keep praying.

Stay safe and keep well.

Fraternally, + Wayne Kirkpatrick Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

UN Human Rights Experts Mess with Texas Pro-Life Law



By Rebecca Oas, Ph.D. | September 9, 2021

UN human rights experts Reem Alsalem and Melissa Upreti

WASHINGTON, D.C. September 10 (C-Fam) Two UN human rights experts have <u>inserted themselves</u> into the debate around the recently-enacted law in Texas that prohibits abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

They claimed in the British newspaper *The Guardian* that Texas, and the U.S. Supreme Court which refused to block the law, have violated international human rights law, despite the fact that no international human right to abortion exists.

Melissa Upreti, a Nepalese human rights lawyer and chairman of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, said the law "has not only taken Texas backward, but in the eyes of the international community, it has taken the entire country backward."

The UN's independent monitor on violence against women, Reem Alsalem, accused the Supreme Court of choosing to "trample on the protection of women's reproductive rights."

Both Upreti and Alsalem are independent experts in the UN's human rights division working with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Their opinions carry no legal weight, but as UN human rights experts, they are influential, and the reports of "mandate holders" are frequently cited throughout UN agencies.

For decades special mandate holders and experts in the UN human rights system, especially the bodies that monitor compliance with human rights treaties, have urged countries to liberalize their abortion laws. These recommendations, also nonbinding, are also commonly quoted in publications by other UN entities, including the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund.

This is not the first time UN experts have expressed their opinions about abortion laws in the U.S. A spokeswoman for the OHCHR voiced <u>concern</u> about state-level abortion restrictions in the U.S., and a group of experts issued a <u>statement</u> condemning some U.S. states for designating abortion as "nonessential" during the early COVID-19 pandemic.

Upreti herself <u>testified</u> before the New York City Council Committee on Women in 2018 in favor of the state's "Reproductive Health Act," which decriminalized abortion, removed restrictions, and expanded abortion rights.

"In the last few years, a number of human rights mechanisms have moved to requiring decriminalization including as an immediate obligation," Upreti testified. "There is no doubt that women's access to safe abortion is critical to their ability to realize many other fundamental human rights."

While the opinion of experts like Upreti and Alsalem may be sought by newspapers like *The Guardian* or their testimonies solicited by local or national governments with

regard to specific legislation, they have no power to impose obligations on any level of government. No binding international human rights treaty—either ratified or unratified by the U.S.—creates any right to abortion, and nor does any nonbinding global consensus.

A recent <u>report</u> from the European Centre for Law and Justice revealed the close links between many UN human rights experts and pro-abortion groups and their powerful funders. Upreti had previously worked for the pro-abortion Center for Reproductive Rights, and has links to OpenDemocracy which is similarly hostile to pro-life groups. Nevertheless, there is little accountability for the independent experts working under the auspices of the UN human rights system, and their pronouncements and recommendations continue to embolden the UN's agencies to join them in exceeding their mandates.

Sign Petition to Protest UNICEF's Pro-Porn Report on Kids

September is Polish Heritage Month

in Nova Scotia

Our diocese includes St. Mary Polish Parish in Whitney Pier, and contributions of Polish immigrants and their descendents continue to strengthen our communities. This year's featured artist is Jo-Ann Dziubek-MacDonald of Sydney: a special display of her work will be at the Polish Village Hall, 972 Victoria Road, Whitney Pier, on Friday, September 10, from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, September 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For a complete schedule of events and more:

https://polishmonthns.ca/

A message for Polish Heritage Month from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia

September 20

is Federal Election Day

Catholic Conscience is a new online resource with information on both provincial and federal election processes and how to select the candidate for your vote. From the website:

"Catholics are called to participate, in accordance with the full measure of talents entrusted to them by God. At a minimum, this means voting wisely after having considered all relevant issues, the positions of each of the candidates and parties, and relevant Church teachings."

Read more on the website:

https://catholicconscience.org/

Season of Creation

Sept. 1 - Oct. 4

These weeks of late summer and early autumn are an invitation to Christians worldwide to reflect and act on care for our common home.

This year's theme is:

A Home For All? Renewing the Oikos of God

See Our Blog:

https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/a-home-for-all/

On Wednesday, September 15, at 1pm, the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition (APRC) is hosting an online event focused on the coming federal election. This will be an opportunity to hear from federal candidates about their parties' positions on poverty eradication, guaranteed livable income supports, and affordable housing. As well, there will be information about where to vote and to assist those needing transportation to the polling stations.

For more information about how to participate, please contact Wyanne Sandler at wyanne@awrcsasa.ca or 902-863-6221 or go to the APRC Facebook page for livestreaming of the event.

Darlene O'Leary Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish Unceded Mi'kmaq Territory