

4th Sunday of Lent
March 14th 2021



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Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also, with you.

Sentence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3.16

Collect

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

NUMBERS 21:4-9;

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22;

EPHESIANS 2:1-10;

JOHN 3:14-21

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-03-14&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for 4th Sunday of Lent from John Maroney

Good evening sisters and brothers;

I came to Canada in 1983 in order to spend time with my mother who was visiting my brother Mike at the time. I was only supposed to stay for 4 months. It was to be a time for reflection and discernment. I had a very important decision to make, and I needed to clear my head. I had been struggling with the decision of whether or not to enter into the life of Jesuit ministry. As you all know by now, my father was a month removed from being ordained a Jesuit priest when God showed him a different life path. There had been intimations that I was considering this path as a way of finishing my father's unfinished business. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. The call was genuine, but I had yet to surrender to it. At the same time as I was struggling with this decision, I was considering a career in the United States Marine Corps. Ever since I was a young lad, I had been interested in all things military. Not out of the desire to play with big guns nor for the power, but for a desire to serve. My parents had taught me that a life without service is devoid of substance and meaning. I went as far as to have a conversation with the Major who was in charge of the Marine detachment protecting the U.S. embassy in Mexico City. He was the father of one of my classmates. He was convinced that I had what it took to become an officer in the Marines.

The Marines are the ones who have to do most of the dirt work during wartime. They march into danger with purpose and on purpose. They are almost always the first ones into combat. During the Second World War, they fought in places with haunted names such as Bougainville, Guadalcanal, and who can ever forget the Marines hoisting the Stars and Stripes on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

And as a teenager I was moved by the Marine motto. "No Man Left Behind". Since then, women have joined the ranks of the Marines so it should read "No person Left Behind". This is a powerful statement that speaks volumes to the dedication of the men and women of the Marine Corps. It means that no matter what, even in the face of death, they will be there for each other.

As followers of Christ, "Leave No Person Behind" should be our motto as well. We are called to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. This is what unconditional love is all about. But when we turn our backs on those who need us the most, we are leaving someone behind. About a year and a half ago I was coming out of Tim Horton's when I was stopped by a gentleman. He had tattoos on almost every part of his body, had many piercings and was actually sort of frightening. He asked me if I were a priest, and I told him that I was. He asked me if he could steal a couple of minutes of my time. We sat down on a nearby bench and he opened up. He told me that he was an addict who had been clean for 3 months. He said that he had been thinking about God in the months he had not been using. As he was speaking his body language began to change. His eyes softened, he smiled and he suddenly seemed a completely different man. Where at first, I had seen nothing but tattoos and a disheveled being, I now saw him as he really was. A living breathing human being who had once been the apple of his mother's eye, who had had dreams, and who had unfortunately fallen through the cracks, left alone and isolated, like something discarded for being worthless. What I saw was a man of worth and substance. And he told me that he had been to various churches to see about becoming a member, and he had repeatedly been told that he was not welcome. The faith community had turned their backs on him and left him behind. He asked me if he would be welcome at Christ Church. I could have wept. I told him that not only would he be welcome, but that he would be celebrated as a new member of our faith family.

He never showed up, but that is okay. I have all the faith in the world that one day he will walk into the sanctuary. What was important that day was that he realized that he was loved, that he was a child of God, worthy of love, compassion, respect.

Our sign at the front of the church says

ALL ARE WELCOME

What it could read is

LEAVE NO PERSON BEHIND

Our hospitality to engage with scripture and partake of the Holy Eucharist is extended to everyone. As followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to seek those who are in need, and to offer friendship. The pride flag flying in the wind tells the LGBTQ community that this is a safe place to come and worship. The sanctuary is not ours. It is the house of God, where everyone is welcome and no person is left behind.

As we slowly return to some semblance of normalcy, it would be wise to use this as a mantra, because it encapsulates the teachings of Christ, the radical teacher.

Leave no person behind

Leave no person behind

Leave no person behind

Leave no person behind.

Let us pray

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen

Dios me los colme de bendiciones

Paz

I love you.

John

Prayers of the People for the 4th Sunday of Lent – from Colin Clarke - cmrclarke@gmail.com

Heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, in you lies our comfort and prosperity. Through you son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we know the grace of your presence in our daily lives.

We are faced with unprecedented stresses today. Sometimes we forget to turn to you, to “Let go and let God”. Forgive us when we falter, and when we take out our stresses on those around us.

Thank you for the gift of laughter as we all struggle through the pandemic. Thank you for the gift of waking to each new day and renewing our faith that this too shall pass.

On this 4th Sunday of Lent, we ask you to guide our leaders, policy makers and health care officials to make the best decisions for our well-being. We pray for our community of Long Point Bay Parish, and Norfolk County as the vaccination rollout program gets underway. May the Holy Spirit unite us all in love and fellowship.

Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers.

Amen.

We pray for: - Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday March 14, 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Bill Graham** (interim) and the people of **Trinity Waterford**.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. We especially remember: June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, David, John, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Eric, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., and anyone known to you. Amen.

We give thanks for the healing of Cindy L. She had back surgery 2 weeks ago as she was hunched over in pain. She had 2 rods inserted in her back and is now 1.5 inches taller and walking without pain. Medical science is amazing.



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It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@hotmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the prayer list for a month.

Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the ever-present threat of COVID-19 in our area. It has been decided to suspend all church services immediately, until further notice.

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on, regarding the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let Rev Enrique or myself know.

Any birthdays in March – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in the birthday section please send me details.

Part Time Employment Opportunity:

We are looking for an Organist for Local Anglican Services- Our group enjoys singing a variety of styles of music. Organ is manual digital with full pedal board. Standard payroll. If you or anyone you know may be interested please send resume to enrique6921@hotmail.com

Any questions 519-586-3401

CELEBRATE: SPRING EASTER MOTHER'S DAY

EASTER LILIES

**ORDER & PAY BY MAR 23
PICKUP SATURDAY APRIL 3
9-3**

MOTHER'S DAY HANGING POTS

**ORDER & PAY BY APRIL 27
PICKUP SATURDAY MAY 8
9-3**

SUCCULENTS



GOLDFISH PLANT



15.00/3 ASSORT

12.00

CUT LILIES 15-20 BLOOMS



13.00 EA

MIXED 10" HANGING BOSTON FERN



16.00 EA

TO ORDER AND PAY: CONTACT VERONICA HARRIS CHUCKIE313@HOTMAIL.COM MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK OR CELL TO TEXT 519 410 2568

CONTACT MARIE GRANGER MARIEGRANGER@HOTMAIL.COM

CELL TO CALL OR TEXT 519 410 5633

FUND RAISER BY: ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, PT. ROWAN

PICKUP SITE: CHURCH HALL, SIDE DOOR, 46

Please click on the link to watch this week's video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrGKE2JmemY>

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, March 14, 2021

601 – God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

1. God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store –
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door –
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious Donor of our days.
2. Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labour, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred,
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

565 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art might: hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@hotmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lppparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page