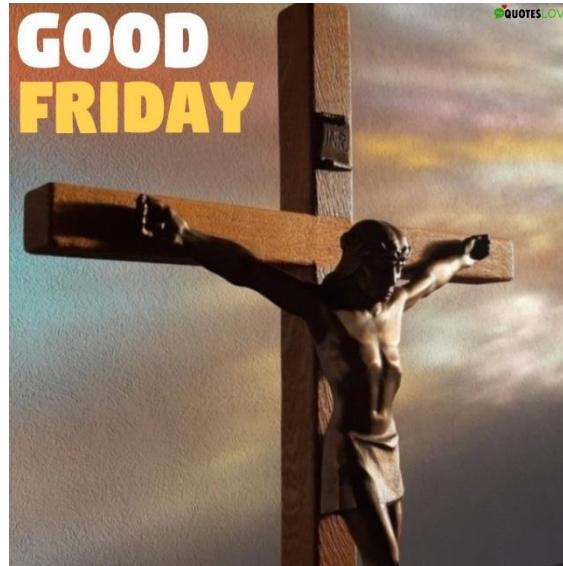


THE PARISH OF LONG POINT BAY



PORT ROWAN ♦ PORT RYERSE ♦ TURKEY POINT ♦ VITTORIA ♦ ST. JOHN'S WOODHOUSE



Opening

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

Sentence

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Philippians 2:8-9

Collect

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Readings

ISAIAH 52:13-53:12;

PSALM 22;

HEBREWS 10:16-25 OR HEBREWS 4:14-16, 5:7-9;

JOHN 18:1-19:42

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2022-04-15&submit=show+new+date>

THE CROSS AS TREE OF LIFE

"The Old Rugged Cross" is the title of a well-known song written by George Bennard more than a century ago (1912). Afterwards, various famous artistes, including Jim Reeves and Elvis Presley re-echoed it. The lyrics are a resource for reflection on an important event such as 'Good Friday.' In the midst of economic hardship, physical suffering, spiritual persecution, excruciating pain, deep sorrows and existential troubles, the cross becomes a symbol of hope. Bennard translated his profound reflection about life and the glory of the cross into music. He sings:

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.
O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

The Cross is the principal symbol of Christianity and this is so because it reminds the world of the sacrificial love of Christ which he expressed to humankind through his passion and death. "As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ," says St. Paul (1 Corinthians 1:23). In addition, the Apostle says, "the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for those who are being saved it is God's power" (1 Corinthians 1:18). Paul addressed this message to the Jews who see the cross as a burden for criminals and suffering as punishment for sinners (Deuteronomy 21:20-23). Therefore, they think it is out of place to believe in someone who is crucified. On the other hand, the Greeks who were renowned thinkers and philosophers of the time saw the cross as a sign of foolishness. In all their knowledge they could not understand how God uses 'foolish things' to express his greatness.

St Theodore the Studite, one of the early Monks of the eastern church (Constantinople, presently Istanbul), sees a trace of the cross in the following Biblical events of the Old Testament: First, on the pile of wood on which Abraham placed his Son Isaac; second, on the wood of the ark in which Noah, his family and all animal species were saved. Furthermore, he sees the foreshadowing of the cross in the wooden staff of Moses, which changed water into blood, devoured the false snakes of the magician and divided the red sea for the salvation of the Israelites. Again, he sees an allusion of the cross in the staff of Aaron that blossomed on a single day and showed him to be the true priest.

The cross has a message for all believers today as it gives meaning to the trials and troubles in the world, and for standing as a symbol of love as well as a symbol of victory. The second chapter of the book of Sirach admonishes those who wish to serve the Lord to be prepared for temptations (2:1). Trials are an inevitable path towards the attainment of salvation and victory. Jesus emphasised this fact clearly to his followers when he says, "If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, carry his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

The cross brings to memory the sacrificial love of the one who hangs there. It is a clear proof of his love, that he laid down his life for us, and challenges us to do the same for our brothers and sisters (John 15:13; 1 John 3:16). The early Fathers of the Church interpret the four cardinal points of the cross as symbols of the love of Christ. According to them, the vertical points signify the height and depth of his love, the horizontal points expressing the width and breadth of that love. Their interpretation is closely connected to Paul's words that prayed for the Ephesians to have the strength to grasp the breadth, length, height and depth of his love (3:18).

The message of the cross is a paradox because it seems to contradict itself, but in the contradiction itself is found an inherent truth (death bringing forth new life). This shows how that which is negative turns to be positive. Likewise, suffering and pain can bring about unimaginable blessings. It is within this context that we can understand why the tree of death has turned into a life-giving tree. In the very beginning, a tree brought about the fall of Adam, but in the new dispensation, a tree has brought about the glory of the new Adam, namely Christ. This is so because by his Cross he has redeemed the world. It speaks eloquently about the temporal victory of evil over what is good. The Apostles saw in the cross the secret of their success and so one of them exclaims, "As for me, however, I will boast only about the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14).

Good Friday is a day to pause and think of the meaning of the passion and death of Jesus Christ. It is also a time to reflect on how his wounds bring healing to many and how his death offers a ticket of salvation to everyone. The cross has a pride of place in Christianity just as the incarnation and resurrection are important landmarks in the economy of Christian salvation. The hope of resurrection gives meaning to the passion and death, which is commemorated on Good Friday. The cross then becomes a symbol of hope, which blares out the message: No crown without a cross; no cross without a crown; no pain, no gain.

Take from: PREACHING THE SANTITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE GOSPEL MESSAGE



Prayers of the People for Good Friday from JoAnne Easton

Dear Jesus, we come to you in prayer today on Good Friday remembering the day you were tried, convicted, mocked, beaten and crucified. We remember how You died and were laid into the tomb amid the sounds of incredible grief, fear, shock and sorrow.

Instead of jumping ahead to the happy ending where you arose from the dead-on Easter morning, help us to meditate today on Good Friday on your great sacrifice, suffering and pain that you endured for our sake and for the sake of the whole world. In our greatest times of suffering, we realize that we never have suffered as you did. You deserved life, honor and praise. Yet you willingly chose death, dishonor and ridicule in order to complete God's plan.

Jesus, we are overwhelmed by the depth of your sacrifice. May we sit in silence and allow ourselves to look with an open heart toward the cross. Help our knowledge of your suffering and crucifixion journey move from our mind and settle into our hearts. Help us to feel the tension between great sacrifice and great love, between suffering and redemption, between death and life, between the fleeting and the eternal. Help us to experience the unseen force of Grace and obedience and weep with both joy and sorrow at the great cost.

Help us in our world of today. In times of conflict, persecution, fear; when hate and love collide and lives once peaceful now seem broken, hope lost in smoke of burning streets be there, loving God, our light in darkness. Invade the hearts of those who harm and kill your children, sow the seeds of peace in the barren soil within, that can grow, fed by the Spirit and put an end to war
We pray especially for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Martinez Bishop of Amazonia, AD Rick Jones, Rev Enrique Martinez, and Rev Jack Cox.

For the week beginning Sunday 17 April 2022, we will be praying for the **Rev. Rob Park**, the **Rev. John Ogilvie**, the **Rev. Margaret Shortell** and the people of **St. Mark's, Brantford**.

Have mercy on all those who are sick and suffering, O Lord

Remembering all those on our prayer lists--- 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., Dale F, Rose G, Julie, Carol M., George F., Carol H., Bud W. Juanita K. Mary B., Sabrina S, Colin C. his father Michael, Pat A. and all their families, adding anyone you know needs your prayers.

Remember as well our shut-ins June, Shirley & John, Julie, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

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@gmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list

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

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video

<https://youtu.be/JxqT63tYnBQ>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Good Friday, St. John's Port Rowan 10:00 a.m.

Saturday April 16 Easter Vigil on Saturday Memorial, Port Ryerse 7 p.m.

Sunday April 17 The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day St John's Port Rowan 10 a.m. and St John's Woodhouse 11:30 a.m.



There will be a Roast beef Dinner

Sat April 30th 5-7pm

St. John's Anglican Church, Woodhouse

\$18

Drive-through dinner

Roast pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, coleslaw, dinner roll, dessert included.

Pre order only

Call Sharon to reserve dinner and pick up time 519-426-4461

Bi-Weekly newspaper

Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. A delicious recipe you want to us all to enjoy. **Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique or myself and we can include in the newspaper.**

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in April/May— Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate 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 this special occasion section, please send me details.

Sing along to this mornings Hymns

Hymn Texts – Good Friday 2022

CP 190 – Go to Dark Gethsemane

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power.
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgement hall; view the Lord of life arraigned.
O the wormwood and the gall! O the grief his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time – God's own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished,” hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

CP 386 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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@gmail.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 lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page