



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday  
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei  
(902) 535-2053

June 16, 2024

### Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from *Ez 17:22-24*. In this reading the prophet Ezekiel spoke about the better days that were to come for the Chosen People when Yahweh would take back His people once more, and dwell in their midst forever. Today's extract is a messianic prophecy in which God says that he will raise up a descendant—a sprig from the lofty cedar David, who will yet be the glory of Israel.

The **Second Reading** is from *2 Corinthians 5:6-10*. St Paul tells his Corinthians that his constant desire and motive in life is to please God. In this he wants them to imitate him. While on earth this is his aim and when he goes to God in heaven this will be his purpose and his delight.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 4:26-34*. One of the proofs of the divine origin of the Church of Christ is its growth from very humble beginnings. Christ could have come on earth in the prime of manhood, without the cooperation of any human ancestry. He could have preached his gospel to the whole world himself without any help from men. By extraordinary miracles he could have astounded the world into believing. If he wished to have the assistance of men he could have chosen the outstanding philosophers and orators of Greece and Rome. Instead, he chose to come into this world as a baby, the son of a poor mother and of a carpenter foster-father.

He was born in a stable; was forced into pagan Egypt before he was a year old; he lived thirty or so years in Nazareth in poverty, earning his meager daily bread by the sweat of his brow. Then for three years he trudged the highways and by-ways of Palestine, often weary, hungry and footsore, preaching the good news of redemption. For assistants he chose fishermen, shepherds and tax-gatherers, twelve of the most ordinary of the ordinary people of his day.

When the time came for him to lay down his life for the world as prearranged by his Father, he allowed his enemies to capture him and to condemn him to the death of the cross. These were surely humble beginnings for a kingdom which was to span the earth and the ages. The mustard seed in comparison was large. Yet, this was God's plan and therefore it succeeded as he said it would. The story of his humble origins among us, of his equality with us in all things, sin alone excepted, and of his self-immolation for us, touched human hearts wherever it was told and the grace of God did the rest.

It was not the eloquence of the Apostles, nor their gift of persuasion, nor their fame for learning that moved the pagan world to forsake its idols and its vices. No, nothing but the moving grace of the Holy Spirit and the objective truth of the gospel story can explain the conversion of the Roman empire. Therefore, the spread of the Church is a proof of its divine origin—it is from God and God is with it. Knowing this, how grateful should we not be to him who has made us members of his kingdom on earth, with the assurance of a place in his eternal kingdom in heaven, if we remain his loyal subjects here below. How good God has been to us! To what lengths of humiliation did he not go to in order to open heaven for us! When we think of

Bethlehem, Nazareth, Calvary, can we dare complain because he sends us a few crosses to help us to atone for our own past sins? When we wipe the sweat of honest labor from our brow, we will think of the carpenter of Nazareth. When we feel the pinch of poverty, hunger, debt, we will think of Bethlehem and its stable and of the poor home of Nazareth. If or when the injustice of others should drive us from our home and fatherland, as is the lot of so many today, we will think of the exile in Egypt. If we are saved this humiliation we will do all in our power to help "displaced" persons wherever they may be.

The tiny mustard seed has grown into a tree but it has yet to gather many more under the shelter of its branches. Christ asks every one of his followers to help him to bring all men into the safety of his kingdom on earth, so that they may be enabled to enjoy happiness forever in his heavenly kingdom. Realizing all that God and his divine Son have done for us, would we be so mean and ungrateful as to refuse to lend a helping hand? God forbid! God has already put us on the right road to heaven; we will help him to get in the stragglers, the lazy, the "couldn't-care-less" ones on that same road, by every means available to us.

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

## Collection

June 09, 2024

Envelopes	\$417.00
Loose	\$35.00
Donation to Shrine	\$205.00
	\$657.00

## Notices:

**1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market:** The first Market will take place on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30am – 1:00 pm. See you there

**2: Clean Up at Hall:** Before the Film crew comes and before the Strawberry Festival, we will be giving the hall a little clean up. If you are available to come and help we will be at the hall on Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.

**3: Exciting News:** A film crew has approached the parish about using the church and hall to film scenes for an upcoming movie. The Bishop has approved the use of the buildings. The filming will be taking place on Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will be filming in the church on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and in the hall on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will also be looking for extras to fill the church and hall and will need all ages. Once I receive the link for the application to apply as an extra, I will pass it along. The movie is based on video by Adam Baldwin "The Lighthouse at Little Lorraine." Here is the link to the sign-up form to become an extra  
<https://form.jotform.com/241653698032258>

**3: Canada Day:** Another summer is approaching. Please join us for our Canada Day reception on Monday, July 1, 2024 at the Red Islands fire hall. We will be serving light snacks, coffee, tea fruit punch and desserts, and plenty of good company. You are welcome to bring another beverage of your choice. We look forward to seeing you! Best wishes to all, Howard MacIntyre, Chair; Edith Boyles, Vice-chair

**5: Strawberry Festival:** The Strawberry Festival is fast approaching, July 7th, and we will need bakers of biscuits, bonnach and oatcakes, and help with hulling the berries and workers serving the berries. If you can help, please call Louise at 902-535-3107 or email [lcampbell1@bellaliant.net](mailto:lcampbell1@bellaliant.net)

**6: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass: Note:** Fr. Yake will be away that weekend, Fr. Dan Doucet has graciously agreed to celebrate the Outdoor Mass.

**7: Music Royal Concert – Tentative:** more information to follow: Friday August 9 at 7 pm - Sacred Heart Church, Johnstown - Ensemble Urmawi Lamia Yared (vocals and oud), Nizar Tabcharani (qanun), Showan Tavakol (kamanche), Ziya Tabassian (percussion). The musicians will interpret songs from Syrian traditions (Muwashahat) as well as sacred chants from the early Christians of the Orient in Aramaic, and finally some pieces of traditional Persian music will also be included. This tour provides a rare opportunity for Nova Scotian audiences to hear these three traditions of music, which intersect both geographically and historically.

**8: New Readers:** If anyone is interested in becoming a lector at Sunday Mass, please let Louise know.

**9: Free Marriage Prep Course** Sunday June 30th at St Joseph Church in North Sydney - 10 am to 3 pm. Starting with mass at 10 am with a homily on the marriage laws of the Church. Followed by sessions in the hall on finances, spirituality, sexuality, children, communication and a free lunch. All couples being married in the Diocese are welcome. Register by calling the parish office at 902-794-3951

**10: The Commonwealth Youth Choir,** made up of youth aged 12-18 from New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be in Sydney for one concert only. Sunday, June 23rd at 2:30 p.m. at United Heritage Church, 500 Charlotte St. in Sydney. Admission is by donation at the door. All funds raised will be donated back to United Heritage Church.

## 11: List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall

Sunday July 7 - Strawberry Festival - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday July 7 - Guadalupe Mass - 2:00 pm
Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am
Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am
Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am