

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

June 5, 2011

40/3/50
THE PASCHAL SEASON

Mathew 28:16—20

- A man went out on a starry night and shook his fist at the heavens yelling, “Oh, God, what a lousy, rotten world you’ve made. I could have done much better.” Then a voice boomed from the clouds saying, “That’s why I put you there. Get busy.”
- The feast of the Ascension marks the time when Jesus puts us in charge of his mission and of his work, promising to be always with us.
- Let me talk to the Lord, to discover where I can do his work.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 6TH

Monday	7:00 p.m.	Parish General Assembly
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Mary Murray, Carmel Lynch and Sherie Croft by Lillian & J. P. Bourassa
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	OUTDOOR MASS

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2072.50 Thank You!

Next Sunday, June 12, Pentecost Sunday: Outdoor Mass at 10:00 a.m.

It is with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the Church began, built on Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. And if there is one thing that Jesus Christ prayed for it is that his followers, his Body, would be one, something expressed (but not limited to) in their coming together around his Table in the Eucharist. So it makes a lot of sense that once a year – and it just so happens that it is on Pentecost Sunday this year – we have one Sunday Mass for our parish to express that unity that we find in Jesus Christ. We have lots of space in the back to accommodate everyone. Of course, it will break our routine a bit, but in light of what we try to achieve with it that may well be worth the effort.

There is another focus to this **One Outdoor Mass** as well. It has to do with the fact that we are bringing the **50-day Easter Season** to a close. That 50-day Easter season is the preferred time for the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist. Those are the sacraments that immerse us in the Paschal Mystery of the Lord Jesus and that make us full members of Christ’s Body, the Church. Of course, these sacraments are important for the persons baptized, confirmed and making their First Communion. But they are just as important to us who are here, as a parish community, the Body of Christ. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, most of the time these sacraments of initiation are actually celebrated when only a smaller part of the parish is present. So as a parish we miss out on something important to all of us. That is what we try to “correct” with having **One Mass** at which those who have been **baptized, confirmed and have made their First Communion** during the past year are in our midst, at least they have all been invited to this Mass. It is hard to think of a better way of welcoming and recognizing them than in our **One Mass** at which we are all guests of the real Host, the Lord Jesus. So, welcome to those baptized, confirmed and having made their First Communion!

After the Mass we extend our fellowship--for us rooted in Christ Jesus with a potluck lunch. If everyone brings their favourite dish we can have a good time together.

That was a great way to celebrate our Patron St. Mark, May 27!

Because the actual feast day of St. Mark, April 25, fell on Easter Monday this year, the annual Parish Supper was postponed until the time was more suitable. That was last Friday, and it was well worth waiting for. The hall was full, the food was very good, and the fellowship was so enjoyable. Our thanks to all who in different ways contributed to the success of it; and that involves a lot of people!

And then it just so happened that we had Des Bolton’s funeral the very day after the Parish Supper. When it concerns the funeral of one of our own the parish tries, in addition to the actual funeral liturgy, to provide a funeral

lunch. It is a beautiful and very concrete way of ministering to the mourning family. A good number of those who had worked on the Parish Supper were there again to contribute to and work on the funeral lunch. Wow! And it was all done with much dedication, generosity and good cheers! Beautiful! That is the stuff on which a parish is built.

Monday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.: Parish General Assembly

Getting together around the Table of the Lord on Sunday as the Day of the Lord is, of course, crucial for us as a parish. But there are other important sides to parish life. They are sort of summed up in the diagram on the front cover of the parish bulletin, the four poles of parish life: *liturgy, faith formation, fellowship, service/outreach*. And there is the equally important financial and administrative side to parish life. Yes, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Wardens take more immediate responsibility for these matters, but they do so on our behalf.

It is therefore no luxury to have one evening a year that is devoted to an overview of these matters. That is what the **Parish General Assembly** is all about. It is scheduled for this **Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m.** Here all of us have an opportunity to let us know how as a parish we handle the four poles of parish life. So time for expressing our views, for being informed, for asking for clarification, for making suggestions.

Our presence at and participation in that General Assembly are strongly encouraged.

This Wednesday Evening: On our way to the Baptisms of June 26

That journey to the celebration of Baptism on June 26 has already begun by the parents having made the request to have their daughter/son baptized. And in many instances today before the parents made the request they have already gone through some questioning. Should we have him/her baptized? What is the point of it? What does it involve? Yes, it is part of our family tradition, but why? What are we saying about ourselves and about our daughter/son when we make the request to have her/him baptized? This sort of questioning is great, and it needs to be encouraged. How would it be if we were a parish where we could provide settings where parents could deal with these questions together with others who 'have been there'?

Once the parents have decided to make the request they contact 'the parish' by phone or e-mail. But the parish is not some bureaucracy. It is a welcoming person in the form of Lynne or Agnes and then the more formal preparation begins. Needless to say how crucial that first contact with 'the parish' is. For a good number of parents it is the first time they are in touch with the church in a more formal way. What sort of church do they meet? Is it a church that is only interested in the paper work? Or is it a church that is welcoming and that reflects a welcoming Jesus?

Once the parents have 'that first crucial contact', they get visited by a member of our baptism team. That is part of the preparation as well. We cannot underestimate the value of that visit. What face of the church do the parents meet? We have to be realistic here, and there is really no use in complaining about it: many (not all) of the parents who request the baptism for their child are fairly 'un-churched' as they call it today, or at least they do not relate to the church the way many of us do or have done. What kind of church do the parents meet? That is not only shaped by the priest, but by all of us. Are we a welcoming church?

That is a bit of a lengthy introduction to what we begin this Wednesday evening: three evenings of reflection with the parents on what they have asked for their children and what in the process they are saying about themselves. It is obviously more than 'getting it done'!

May a gracious God accompany, guide and sustain us with his Spirit.

Next Saturday, June 11, 9:00 a.m. to Noon: the Diocesan Five Year Plan

The Diocesan Pastoral Council has adopted a five year plan for its mission for young people from 18 to 35 years old. Sharing the faith we cherish with the younger generation is a major challenge today. So the Diocesan Pastoral Council with the help of its diocesan youth pastoral coordinator, as well as the other members of the diocesan pastoral services, has set up information meetings for the different sections in the Diocese. They have also set up such a session for the English Zone - that is to say for the English parishes of our diocese.

At that session we will be informed about the plan, we will be presented the document ***From River to River, from Portage to Portage***, and then see how in our English parishes we can work with that plan. Needless to say that is an important initiative. So let us respond and participate. We might say "so few of that age group come to church, so why should we bother". But that is exactly the issue. How do we as a parish handle this new challenge? There will be no magic solutions, but at least we can begin to think about it, and reflect on how to minister to the members of that age group. Here too applies the question: "Are we a welcoming church?"

The session will be held at the **Diocesan Centre, 180 boul. Mont-Bleu this coming Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.**

Ottawa Christian Meditation – National Conference
Saint Paul University, Ottawa, June 10-12

Of particular interest may be Friday evening, June 10, 7:30—9:30 p.m., when Father Laurence Freeman will give his first talk. He is a Benedictine monk who is the Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Registration is required: 2011ccmconference@gmail.com or 613 291-5419. Cost: \$20, payable at the door.

A note from the Franciscans of Halifax

*“The Franciscans of Halifax would like to thank the community of St. Mark’s Parish for their support during our time in Aylmer. Your support has been greatly appreciated by our whole community. Our time with you has ended, due to the successful completion of our school year and we are returning back to Halifax. Your donations of time, food and household items along with your friendship, support and prayers created a comfortable atmosphere that allowed us to focus on our studies and prayers. Please be assured that you have been prayed for everyday and our community is eternally grateful. If any would like to have their donated items returned to them, please e-mail br.paulm@gmail.com and arrangements will be made. Any items that are left will be used for setting up a future convent. The Brothers have worshiped with you, prayed with you and have even cried with you, during our spiritual journey together. You will always be a part of our history. Thank you for welcoming us into your spiritual home. Your Brothers in Christ,
Br. Paul, Br. Pio and the whole community of The Franciscans of Halifax.”*

CWG Meeting: Tuesday, June 7th at 7:30 p.m. At the meeting, we will be announcing the new executive or have an election if necessary. The new committee will start at the first meeting in September. All members welcome!

Could you help us with Advertisers for the Church Bulletin?

Our Sunday Parish Bulletin is free of charge for the Parish. That is made possible by the advertisers that you find at the back of the bulletin. They pay for it, and they are the real sponsors of it. Each year around this time a representative from the company that prints the Parish Bulletin visits our region to recruit advertisers. Needless to say, that representative needs our local cooperation. So if you know of any potential advertisers for our Sunday Parish Bulletin, please let us know, and we will pass your suggestion on to the representative. Your help will be much appreciated.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Don Daly and his family in your prayers.

Bulletin design & Website content/design by: *Catherine LeGuerrier*
Need a website or flyer? Visit www.catleg.ca or e-mail: catleg@catleg.ca