

TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 28, 2011

MATHEW 16:21--27

- Taking up one's cross is a central thought in the gospels. In life, it takes many forms, but it is always painful. Sometimes it never ends; Jesus bore a cross to the end of his life.
- On the way to Calvary, Jesus was helped by one man, Simon from Africa. Help can come from expected or unexpected quarters: from family, friends or even foes, but help there must be if we are to bear our crosses in life.
- Can I help and support someone near me to carry the burdens of their lives? It might start with a smile, with a word, with a hand outstretched.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29TH

First Friday	Sept 2	9:00 a.m.	Eucharist & 1 hour Adoration
Saturday	Sept 3	7:00 p.m.	Deceased Members of CWG
Sunday	Sept.4	9:00 a.m.	Lillian Robertson by Theresa Gaudesaboos
		11:00 a.m.	

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$1,997.00 Thank You!

Ever so slowly...

It has been a good summer so far. It is great to be able to do the things that, in the course of the year, get pushed aside or for which there simply is no time. We have also noticed the impact that has on our participation in the Sunday Eucharist. Those who participated with us on Saturday evening or Sunday morning were not as numerous as on regular Sundays during the year. But now things are slowly "getting back to normal". That also means that we have to think and plan ahead in terms of the pastoral activities we want to, and need to, undertake in the coming year. Naturally, we cannot do that without the cooperation of all.

What will be different this year is the adjustment that will be asked from us as a parish and from me as pastor now that Julie Cool will be "on staff" part-time in her position of pastoral agent. That is a position of ministry for which she has been mandated by Bishop Roger Ebacher who is the Chief Pastor of our Church in this Diocese. That is new for us, and with Julie's commitment and pastoral abilities we have good reason to trust that St. Mark's parish will benefit from her services among us.

Some join us. Some leave us.

While we warmly welcome new parishioners, it is with considerable regret that we also see some parishioners leave. It is quite a mix when it comes to those we no longer see with us. Some have died, and it is our privilege as a parish, in the Church's funeral liturgy, to say our à-Dieu over them and to give them over to God's loving and life-giving care. For others, illness and/or advanced age are the cause of our no longer seeing them. And then there are those who have moved away from Aylmer. There are also some who find that St. Mark's is not the place where they have their life of faith satisfactorily nourished. And some no longer worship and/or mix with us because of disagreement on a particular issue. In addition, there are still others – let us be realistic – who have joined the many who no longer have a formal bond with the parish community; other concerns or priorities preoccupy them; what we are about at Church no longer speaks to them or no longer interests them.

So when we are thinking of those who "have left us" we are not talking about one single group of people. In fact, it is quite a mix. To all those who have left us we thank you for your contribution to St. Mark's parish life over the years and we wish you God's blessing and peace on your journey.

Thursday, September 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Diocese

An awkward time indeed, but it seems to be the only time available for the different participants. 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, not only at St. Mark's. So the Diocesan Pastoral

Council with the help of the 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. Who would be expected to be there? Yes, those who have a leadership position in our parish, but especially also those who have often expressed their concern about what *'we can do for the young people of the parish.'* So it would be great to see a good representation of that age group (18 to 35) and of their parents there. It is quite a challenge, but worth the effort.

The session will be held at the **Diocesan Centre (180, boul. Mont-Bleu), Thursday, September 1, 6:30 to 9:30**

Another Important Upcoming Event: **Québec-wide Catechetical Sunday: September 18**

That really is an initiative which the Québec Bishops launched a few years ago. They designated the third Sunday of September as ***Catechetical Sunday***. It is the sort of initiative that tries to address the new situation we as Church find ourselves in. Is there any need for that? Much depends on how one reads the religious scene in Québec, and really not in Québec only; it is true of much of Canada. Let us face it. The situation of the Church in Québec society – and for that matter in the entire Western world – has changed quite drastically over the last few decades. We experience and live it daily in many different ways, in our own parish, in our families.

The question is: how do we handle it? We can lament and complain about it. We can idealize and romanticize about *"the good old days"*. Little is achieved with that. Do we have to passively accept it and resign ourselves to it? That would be a defeatist attitude that can in no way be reconciled with the Gospel of Jesus Christ from which we are privileged to live. Yes, we are being challenged today. No question! We can look upon it as an opportunity to mobilize the entire parish, to raise the awareness of all parishioners of the challenge we face. It is not the concern of a few, but the challenge for all of us. ***How can we make our parish community into a catechizing community?***

We are still working on what shape we will give ***Catechetical Sunday*** this year. The material we have received from the Catechetical Office of the Québec Bishops centers around the interesting title ***He is Sill to be Found...*** We'll keep you posted.

We need help in two areas:

There are several areas where we would appreciate help. For this Sunday let us mention two of them:

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Except for summer time, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass and after we have done the Opening Prayer of the Mass, a good number of our younger members gather in the center of the church, from where they go to a special room. What are they going to do? They are going to celebrate ***The Liturgy of the Word*** in a more child-friendly manner. They are going to pray and listen to the Scripture readings and reflect on them in a way that is more manageable to them. It is not Sunday School, it is not some crafts activity. Rather, they are doing what we as adults do in the church itself. They join us again after we have finished that part of the Mass so that they will celebrate the second part of the Mass with us again around the Table of the Lord.

This sort of thing does not happen automatically. It takes adults to lead them in their prayer. Are you interested in being one of those leaders? You are not left to your own devices in it. In fact, we follow a helpful guide that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) put out a few years ago: *Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with Children. Guidelines for Practice.*

Sacristans

You may wonder what this is. Every Saturday morning some parishioners make sure that things are put in place for the upcoming Sunday Masses; they wash the chalice, cups and plates used for communion, keep the church's linen clean; it usually turns out to be once every five or six Saturdays; they also help decorate the church for the bigger feasts of Easter and Christmas. We'd love to have some new members on that team of dedicated workers.

“Be still and know that I am God”
Every Tuesday evening some parishioners are doing
Christian Meditation

What is Christian Meditation?

It is a way of simplicity in which we quiet the mind and become still and attentive to God. It is a prayer of silence which takes us beyond words, thoughts and images to experience the presence of Christ within us. It is a form of prayer rooted in Christian tradition from earliest times. Meditation was rediscovered in recent years by John Main, a Benedictine monk, and renewed through his teachings.

How do we meditate?

Our Fall session will start Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Where? At St. Mark's church in the Genesis Room (the room where the children celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at the 11 am Mass). The front door of the church will be open to receive new and interested prayer members.

Contact person: Lise Brooks 819 827-2943 or cabrooks@videotron.ca.

Some wise, honest and helpful reflections from ConcordPastor
on a small part of a homily by the Pope in Madrid

ConcordPastor has a daily blog usually on the upcoming Sunday's Scripture Readings. Occasionally he comments on events or happenings in the Church. In this case he shares some comments on what the Pope had to say about *loving the Church* in a homily preached at Madrid. We made it into this Sunday's insert to our parish bulletin.

CWG MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING: Please note **Tuesday, September 6, 2011** for the annual Fall kickoff for the Catholic Women's Guild. All are welcome and are invited to participate in a potluck supper. At **5:30**, we will take new membership registrations and member renewals; at **6:00** we will share in the potluck supper and this will be followed by our first meeting. Should you have any questions, please call Lydia Richard at 819 684-3242.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Jean Paul Bourassa, Don Daly, Jackie Moore and their families in your prayers.

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