

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YEAR A ~ AUGUST 27, 2023

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX**

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN OBINNA NNAJIOFOR, 366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 358-2346

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer,
Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe,
Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne,
Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan.

The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at www.cansoparishes.org

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WEEKEND MASSES -

Saturday, September 02, 2023 - 4:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Church, Queensport - † **For the Faithful**
- 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Church, Port Felix - † **Lorna & Rod Cashin**

Sunday, September 03, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. St. Agnes Church Hall, Little Dover - † **William 'Junior' Pietzsche**
- 11:00 a.m. Star of the Sea Church, Canso - † **Eleanor Ryan**

WEEKDAY MASSES -

Thursday, August 31, 2023 - 6:00 p.m. St. Anthony's Chapel, Canso - † **For the Faithful**

COMMUNION CALLS – If you know of someone unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive the Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office to have their name added to the list.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS – ***Who is Christ for me? And Who Am I before God?***

*Reflecting on the readings of today, two elements come to mind: **identity** and **feedback**. Jesus' question to his apostles, and by extension to us, touches on identity and feedback. I think, to effectively answer Jesus' question, we must first find out who we are before God. We are his children, redeemed by his only-begotten Son and made heirs of his kingdom. This means that we are Christians and belong to Christ. Our identity as Christians is rooted in Christ and no other. The element of feedback is akin to both self-examination and other-centred evaluation. Was Jesus doing self-examination and needing others' evaluation of his ministry? Certainly not! His question was for the benefit of his listeners and followers down to our time. It is for us to know who we are before God through self-evaluation and to engage in other-centred evaluation through the sacrament of reconciliation periodically.*

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – 19th/20th Aug. 2023

Star of the Sea	Not Available
St. Agnes	Not Available
St. Vincent de Paul	Not Available
St. Joseph (18)	\$198.00
Loose	\$ 65.00
Cemetery	\$200.00

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers, and Altar Servers for Funerals. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information if you are interested in helping out.

Property/Finance Committee – We desperately need new members!! The next meeting is Tuesday, **September 12th 2023 at 6:15 p.m.**

Sunday, August 13 - Regatta Prize Bingo - profit was \$1,626.00, just fantastic!! Thank you so very much for your many donations! It is much appreciated. **Saturday, August 19 - Chowder Luncheon & Cake Booth-** special thanks for your ongoing support for these events. **Profits will be announced on September 3.**

Ministries Schedule, September 03, 2023

Lector	- Donna Lewis
Usher	- Rene Leblanc
Sacristan	- Flo Flemming
Cleaners – July 23 - 29	- Irene & Juanita

ST. JOSEPH NEWS:

Weekly Bingo – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

ST. AGNES NEWS:

Bingo - will resume in September.
Club 100 Draw - Winners were Brandon Casey, Garnet Mason, Brent Myatt, Ernie Keefe and Carla Connors! Special thanks for your support.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Annual Celebration

Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine, Mabou Sept. 10

Continuous Rosary will start at 1:00 p.m. at the Shrine and will continue until 3:30, just in time for Feast Day Mass at St. Mary's Church. Following Mass, there will be refreshments at the Mabou Hall compliments of our CWL.

For more information, please call 902-945-2221
The Shrine is open for visitation year-round and the gift shop is open daily from 10 am until 4 pm.

Feast of St. Ninian

Saturday, September 16

St. Ninian is the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Antigonish.

This year, St. Ninian Cathedral is launching the celebration of its 150th anniversary in 2024 with a Mass and supper on the feast day.

For details on the 150th parish celebrations:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/b06b76f3801/ceb400f5-ba9e-4e01-93eb-0c22e6f93b63.pdf>

St. Ninian, pray for us.

Polish-Themed Radio Segments

Weekdays or On Demand

Produced by the St. Michael's Polish Benefit Society, including parishioners from St. Mary's Polish Church in Whitney Pier.

Segments are on The Coast Radio 89.7 weekdays at 3:50 and 7:50 p.m.

or any time at coastalradio.ca

Milestone Anniversaries

In our parishes

We offer prayers and congratulations to:

St. Lawrence Catholic Women's League in Mulgrave

celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, August 26 with Mass at 4 p.m.

Holy Guardian Angels Parish in L'Ardoise

continues celebrating its 200th Anniversary on Sunday, September 3 with Mass at 3 p.m.

St. Mary's Polish Parish in Whitney Pier celebrating its 110th Anniversary on Sunday, September 10 with a special Mass at 11 a.m. followed by a gathering at the Polish Village Hall.

Losing but Gaining Life

This Week's Readings at Mass ▶

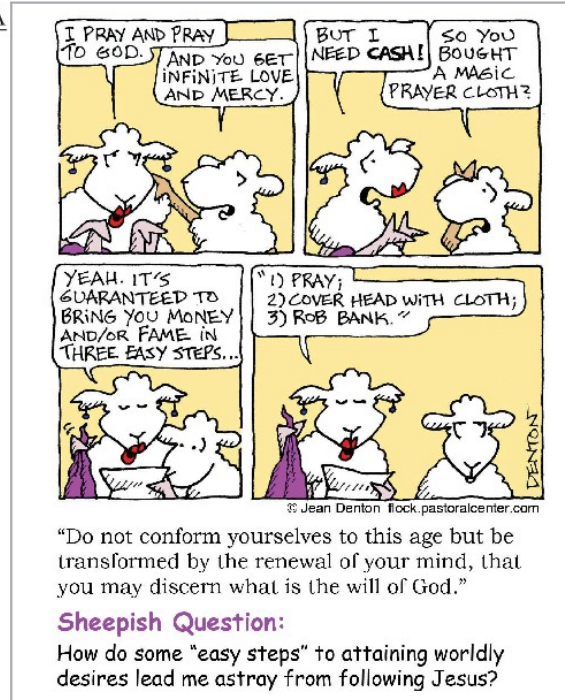
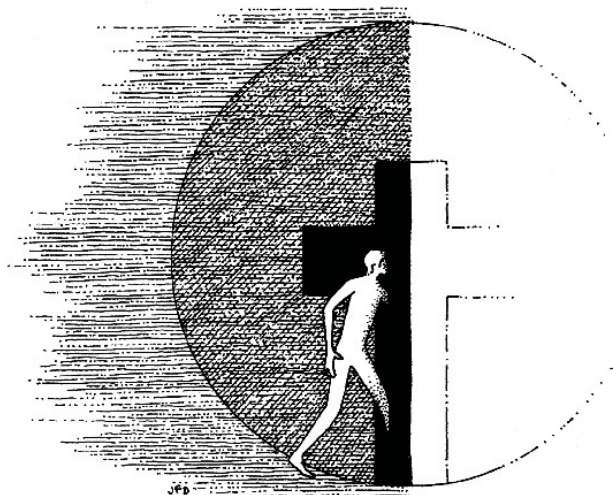
Jeremiah 20:7-9 - Jeremiah's conflict ▶ Romans

12:1-2 - A living sacrifice

▶ Matthew 16:21-27 - "Get behind me Satan"

One of the reasons that so many Jews of Jesus' day had trouble accepting him as their Messiah is that they were waiting for a Messiah who would liberate their country from their Roman occupiers with military strength. Not only did Jesus not train an army against the current empire, but he also taught non-violent resistance against the Romans. He showed his willingness to suffer at the hands of the religious leaders rather than retaliate. Many people couldn't wrap their minds around such a leader. (The Newbery Medal book, *The Bronze Bow*, by Elizabeth George Speare, depicts this well.) In this passage, we see Peter resist this idea too.

Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. Who can fault him for not wanting to see Jesus suffer and die? Who among us would have wanted to see Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. or Oscar Romero suffer and die because of their unwavering commitment to justice and love for all peoples? It is a natural human response to instinctively want to save our lives and save the lives of our loved ones. Yet Jesus (and Gandhi, King, and Romero) was guided by something higher than an instinct for self-preservation. He un-



derstood that something even greater could come out of suffering and death—new life. Jesus' resurrection unleashed a force of love that has forever changed history because Jesus was willing to die rather than have God overpower human free will and save him from the cross.

We can try to avoid suffering, preserve our life as we know it, and "gain the whole world" in riches and security, but ultimately that will kill our souls. Jesus doesn't teach that the point is to suffer for the sake of suffering, but that when pain comes to us, as it inevitably will, we can face it head-on rather than run from it. Then, in losing our lives, we will eventually discover that we have found new life.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share about a time when you saw or experienced new life come out of someone's suffering.
- 2 How might God be inviting you to deny yourself or take up your cross now so that you can gain new life?

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