

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

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

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer, Calvin Harnish,  
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*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at  
[www.cansoparishes.org](http://www.cansoparishes.org)*

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ JULY 7, 2024**

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Saturday, July 13 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*

Saturday, July 13 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - ♥*For the Faithful*

Sunday, July 14 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Mary Keefe*

Sunday, July 14 - 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea, Canso - †*Harry & †Lil Dollard*

**WEEKDAY SCHEDULE**

Thursday, July 11 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

**COMMUNION CALLS** - If you know of anyone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

**REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS: *Rejecting the Messenger***

*Jesus went out from Capernaum to his hometown, Nazareth, where he spent thirty years of His life. It is here he grew up, he learned to eat, walk and work, and it is here he prepared himself before He began His public ministry. He will now be surrounded by people who have known him all his life, who saw him grow from childhood to adulthood, and who regard him as one of their own. Does he expect to be honoured as a success story, who has brought honour to his place of origin? They belittled him, for lack of formal education, they made light of his occupation as a carpenter and they criticized his family. You may recall that in the synagogue at Capernaum, the people were amazed and accepted his new way of teaching. But in the synagogue of Nazareth, they were offended and they rejected him. Crying out: where did this man get all this? Jesus knows very well that "nobody is a prophet in his own country". This kind of stubbornness and rejection of God's message is also what the Prophet Ezekiel in the First Reading encountered. However, God insisted that His message must be delivered irrespective of whether the people listen or not. In our time today, how many people disregard or reject the gospel's message because of their feelings concerning the person who brought the word of God to them. We look down on God's messengers to our own detriment because rejection of His message is a rejection of His blessing. God tests our humility in order to pour upon us His blessings through the grace of Jesus Christ.*

## **ST. AGNES NEWS**

Bingo - discontinued for the summer months, thanks for your past support.

## **STAR OF THE SEA NEWS**

Property/Finance Committee - Tuesday, September 3 at 6:15 p.m. New members needed!!

Ministries Schedule, July 14

Lector - Donna Lewis

Cleaners - July 7 - 13 - Harry Delorey

Ways & Means - Tickets on a camping package are available from committee members, Draw date July 9.

Regatta Prize Bingo - Sunday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. Donations are needed.

Chowder Luncheon - Saturday, August 17 after the parade.

Cake Booth - Saturday, August 17, Midway

## **ST JOSEPH NEWS**

Regular Weekly Bingo - continues Saturdays, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Parish Hall.

St Joseph Annual Parish Picnic - special thanks to all who came out, volunteered and supported this event. Much appreciated.

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU!**

**Star of the Sea (19)** 326.00

Winter fuel (3) 60.00

Loose 6.55

**St. Agnes (17)** 265.00

Loose 20.00

**St. Joseph (15)** 172.00

Loose 45.00

**St. Vincent de Paul (6)** 120.00

## **NOTES**

Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou, Cape Breton, Gift Shop is now open seven days a week as follows: Monday to Saturday - 10am to 4pm; Sunday - 11am to 5pm. The Shrine is open daily for visitation as it has been all winter. For inquiries 902-945-2221

Saint Ninian Parish Foundation presents TIGH DHE - a concert of Sacred & Celtic music - Monday, July 8, 7:00, Saint Ninian Cathedral. Featuring St. Ninian's Cathedral Choir, Celtic Ladies, Anne Holton, Jodie Alcorn, Brenna Conrad, Mary Beth Carty, John Pellerin, Heather, MacIsaac, Grant School of Highland Dance Artistic Director: Emery van de Wiel. Admission by suggested donation - \$20.00

Cape Breton Ecumenical Conference for Women - Nov. 1-3, Inverary Inn, Baddeck. Join us for a wonderful weekend of prayer, learning, music and more! This year we will be celebrating 40 years of gathering at Inverary Inn. If you would like information or registration, please contact Betty Anne at 902-849-2611 or Roberta 902-849-3301. Registration for the weekend is \$30 plus cost for the Inverary Inn

## A Thorn in His Side

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

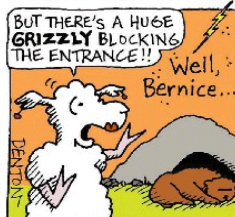
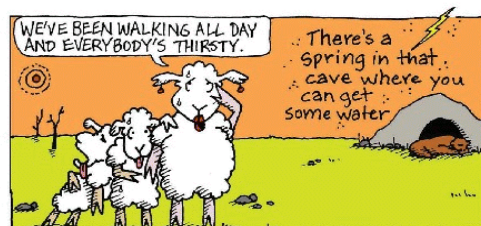
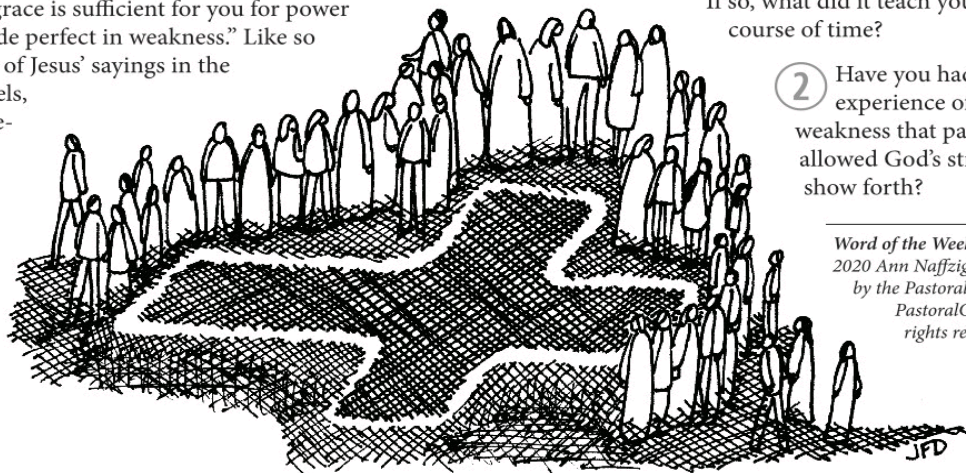
- ▶ Ezekiel 2:2-5 - The Lord speaks to Ezekiel
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - Paul's weakness
- ▶ Mark 6:1-6 - Jesus at Nazareth

The Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings today all give reminders of the hardships endured by God's prophets. We'll focus on the second reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

Immediately before this passage, Paul has been writing to the church community in Corinth about all that he has endured for the sake of spreading the Good News. Five times he was whipped, three times he was beaten with rods, and once he was stoned. He was shipwrecked three times, survived a day and night on the sea, and in his travels endured "many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst and frequent fastings, in cold and nakedness" (2 Cor 11:24-28).

Now he has another challenge: "a thorn in the flesh." He never tells us what the thorn in the flesh is. Is it a physical sickness or handicap? Could it refer to a person, someone he finds almost intolerable? We will never know, but we can probably relate to a challenging or painful situation that we wish we didn't have to experience.

St. Paul begged for his thorn to be removed, but the response he heard from the Lord was "My grace is sufficient for you for power is made perfect in weakness." Like so many of Jesus' sayings in the Gospels, this re-



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"My grace is sufficient for you."

### Sheepish Question:

What causes my faith to falter? How can I bear up to face it?

ponse is a surprise and it challenges our understanding of how God works. Paul manages to accept this and make a shift to humility, accepting his thorn, so that God can work with and through him, despite his imperfections. Ultimately he allows God to be in control, rather than himself.

### Questions of the Week

- 1 Have you had an experience of living with a thorn in your side? If so, what did it teach you over the course of time?
- 2 Have you had an experience of living with weakness that paradoxically allowed God's strength to show forth?

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