

From the Rector _____

The Season of Lent will soon be here; and I don't know about you, but I can say that I'm never quite ready no matter when Ash Wednesday falls, even if it falls relatively late in the calendar as it does this year. I genuinely hope that you will join me in trying to make this journey to the Cross faithfully and sacrificially over these 40 days.

There is a danger in thinking, as we might with any exercise that happens every year, that we've already done it and we don't really need to try any more. But Lent is an annual gift of re-focusing and renewing. As you know, if you wear glasses, from time to time you'll have your eyes tested to ensure that you always have the right prescription; to ensure that you can see as well as possible. If you take medication, you have to be tested on a regular basis to ensure that the medication is the right one for you. Our cars require regular checkups and maintenance if they are to function efficiently and effectively. Lent is our time of testing, modelling Christ's 40-day test, to ensure that our lives, and our love, is as effective, and genuine, as it can be.

Irving Stone, in his novel *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, tells the story of the life of Michelangelo. One incident illustrates something of the great mind and powerful imagination of the sculptor. In 1501 Michelangelo received a commission to work on a huge block of marble, a "flawed" mis-cut mass of stone that had previously been worked on by another artist. Yet in his mind's eye he was able to see in the stone a larger-than-life-size image of David, the shepherd boy who had killed lions and bears with his bare hands. After three years of painstaking carving, chipping away piece after piece, he was finally able to release the beautiful image of "David" from that enormous mass of flawed marble, turning the block rejected by others into the most striking sculpture in Florence.

That, in a sense, is what we are about in this season of Lent. At its most fundamental level, Lent is a time to be re-connected to those things which are primary in our lives: a time to cut away all that has cluttered up our lives and our relationships; a time to cut away and cut back, a time to chip away piece after piece, so that we can re-discover what's always been there. Lent is a time to take time; to take the time necessary to discover the God who has always been there for us, even when we've been so busy looking at other things that we've missed the signs of his presence; to discover the God who all the time has been speaking to us, even when we've allowed all the other sounds in our lives to drown out his voice. Lent is a time of intentional simplification, intentionally simplifying our lives so that we can listen to God; and hopefully, by the time that Easter

arrives, making the discovery that real happiness lies in what we've always had but never seen.

Craig Gates offers the following very simple suggestions for what might make this Lent an important time in your life and the lives of those you know and love. This is his list of what we might 'give up' this year:

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but just "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It's a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting.

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about, like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit or call someone who is lonely or sick. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time!

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not just consumers.

GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standards of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ.

Lent can make a real difference in your life, but only if you take the time to let it. There may be lots of excuses why we can't; but there are probably not so many reasons. Give Lent a real chance this year and see the difference it can make.

Parish Notices and Updates

THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING: the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Mary, York is scheduled for Sunday afternoon starting at 12:30 on Zoom. Please speak to the Rector if you would like to be sent the Zoom link.

WE'RE VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that Archbishop David Edwards will be visiting the Parish on *Sunday, February 27th*, at the 10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. At that time two members of the Parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please join us next Sunday as we welcome the Archbishop to the Parish.

THERE IS A LONG-STANDING CUSTOM of using the palm crosses and branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration to prepare the ashes each year for the Ash Wednesday commemoration. If you wish to return your crosses and branches, please place them in the basket on the table in the Narthex by *Quinquagesima Sunday, February 27th*.

THE SEASON OF LENT, an important time in the Church's life, will begin on March 2nd with the commemoration of **Ash Wednesday**. For your convenience, you have the choice of attending either our morning celebration at *All Saints' Church in Marysville at 10:00 a.m.* or our evening celebration at *St. Mary's at 7:00 p.m.* Everyone is warmly encouraged to set aside time to attend one of these two Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist that together we might begin the journey to the Cross.

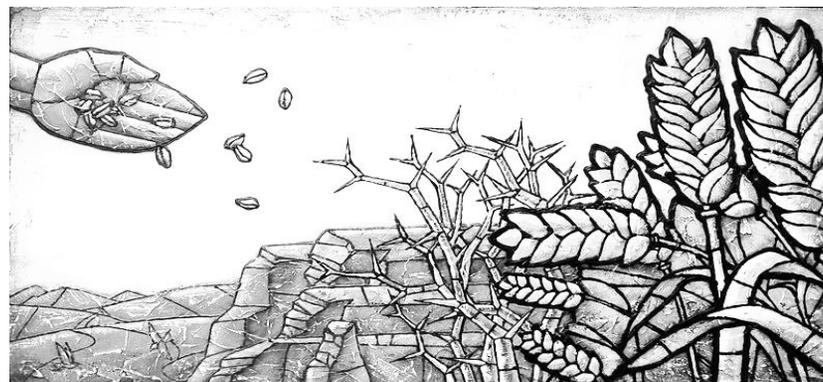
OUR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held each Friday **from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom**. We're starting a new series called "Matriarchs & Patriarchs; Prophets & Papyri: the great stories of the Old Testament and how they point us to Jesus." If you'd like to join us, even occasionally, please let the Rector know so that he can send the Zoom link to you.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR: On Saturday, February 26th, together with thousands of Canadians across the country, a team from our Diocesan Synod Office – Anglican Energy – will again be walking and fundraising to support hungry, homeless, and hurting people and families in our communities, raising funds for Youth in Transition and the John Howard Society. Please consider sponsoring the team by going to <https://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=969713>

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE this year is prepared by the Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme is "For I know the Plans I have for You Declare the Lord." (Jeremiah 29:11.) March 4th is the official date chosen as the World Day of Prayer. This 55-minute video service can be downloaded for free at wicc.org

*The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Jesus' favorite speech form, the parable, was subversive. Parables sound absolutely ordinary: casual stories about soil and seeds, meals and coins and sheep, bandits and victims, farmers and merchants. And they are wholly secular: of his forty or so parables recorded in the Gospels, only one has its setting in church, and only a couple mention the name God. As people heard Jesus tell these stories, they saw at once that they weren't about God, so there was nothing in them threatening their own sovereignty. They relaxed their defenses. They walked away perplexed, wondering what they meant, the stories lodged in their imagination. And then, like a time bomb, they would explode in their unprotected hearts.... He was talking about God; they had been invaded!

Eugene H. Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor*

PRIEST AND RECTOR

The Venerable Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.
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THE SUNDAY CALLED SEXAGESIMA

February 19, 2022

*A Sower went out to sow!
O come, let us worship!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalms 100 & 101 | Genesis 17:1-22 | Romans 6

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 44:24-27:	<i>page 386</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 134</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 3:9-19
Psalm 81:1-4:	<i>page 434</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 134</i>
Gradual Psalm 17:6-9:	<i>page 346</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 135</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FEBRUARY 22: GESIMA FERIA

2:30 p.m. – Holy Communion, *Neill Hall*

FEBRUARY 23: EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. MATTHIAS

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 24: ST. MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

FEBRUARY 25: GESIMA FERIA

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

FEBRUARY 26: QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 27: QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

With the Sacrament of Confirmation

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THE CORPORATION OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK, gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Anglican Foundation of Canada for our Renewing St. Mary’s Project.



THE SUNDAY CALLED SEXAGESIMA

February 20, 2022

*A Sower went out to sow!
O come, let us worship!*

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 42 & 43 | Genesis 27:1-40 | 1 Corinthians 6:12-end

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	102 (MONKLAND)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 134</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 3:9-19
Psalm 81:1-4	<i>page 434</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 134</i>
Gradual Psalm 17:6-9:	<i>page 346</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 135</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♪ OFFERTORY HYMN:	103 (ALBANO)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	803 (GWALCHMAI)

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