

From the Rector _____

Baby steps.

That was the image that we concluded with when the Parish Corporation met this past week to consider what our response should be as a Parish Family to the lifting of all public health guidelines and restrictions on Monday.

We had an excellent discussion which explored a range of options. With no guidance from the provincial government, we understand that are free to resume any and all practices that were in place prior to the start of the pandemic in 2020. But there was a sense, both on the Parish Corporation as well as from those members of the Parish who shared their thoughts with me, that many of you want to proceed cautiously, at least for a time. That was the choice that we made last summer when most restrictions were lifted; and it proved to be wise when the province had to step back from their plans in September.

The image of baby steps recognises that we have to start looking towards a return to normal activities; that we just can't stay in a limited estate indefinitely. Many of you have told me that you've been missing the times that we gather together socially. I do too. And many of you are just tired of restrictions. So, I share the opinion that we ought not to just maintain the status quo. But the image of baby steps also recognises that some of us are hesitant about an immediate return to previous practices, especially given the fact that we cannot know what the impact that lifting of all public restrictions will have on the ongoing transmission of the virus. I share that concern as well.

In summary, the Parish Corporation has decided to keep most pandemic protocols in place for the time being:

- We will continue to ensure *physically distant seating, sanitising the spaces* between services, and *maintaining a list of attendees* in case we have a suspected exposure.
- We will ask those attending to *wear a mask on entrance and exit and whenever moving about the building during public events*, including receiving Holy Communion, **but we will permit those who wish to remove their masks when seated and not engaging those around them.**
- We will ask those who wish to sing to *wear their mask whenever singing.*
- We will continue to *ask people to sanitise their hands* on entrance and prior to receiving the sacrament.

- We will also remind everyone of the importance of *respecting everyone's personal space*, ensuring that they stay six feet away at all times.
- We will continue to *leave the collection plate on the table* at the entrance (rather than having a sidesperson pass it to the congregation).
- We will continue to *ask that prayer requests be communicated directly to the Celebrant* rather than having a shared book in which to write them.
- And we will continue to *offer Holy Communion* in just one kind, the consecrated bread. We may revisit this decision in the near future if there is interest from Parish members to optionally receive from the chalice as well.
- We will continue to *provide a recorded service* for those members of the parish family who are not able to attend public services.
- We have decided to *continue with one Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning* but will look at starting a second if the numbers warrant.
- We have decided to *continue to offer our adult Sunday morning Christian programme virtually* but will look at the possibility of resuming in-person sessions with a Zoom link for those not able to be present.
- We have decided **not to resume Coffee and Conversation** but will revisit this question in the next few weeks if the COVID situation does not worsen.

So, as you will see, very little will change initially. But we also agreed that we have to begin to plan for further re-openings; and to that end we hope to prepare a reopening plan at the next meeting of the Corporation. That will attempt to put together a timeline for future changes, addressing both the need for safety with the desire for greater freedom. Several of you expressed to me the wish to first see how the public situation goes before making radical changes; so I expect that the Parish Corporation will be revisiting this process over the next several months.

I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Parish Corporation as well as those who spoke with me privately. And above all, I thank everyone for their ongoing prayerful and financial support of the Parish's ministry. With God's Grace we have done extraordinarily well as a Parish through the past two years; and I know that, with God's Grace, we will continue to grow together as the Family of God.

Please speak to me if you have any questions.

Parish Notices and Updates —

LENT AT ST. MARY'S: Everyone is encouraged to spend time during the Season of Lent in the traditional Lenten exercises: **prayer, fasting, self-examination, and reading** and meditating on God's Word. Please speak to the Rector if you are looking for some good spiritual reading, some of which can be found on the table at the entrance to the Church. You may wish to join, via Zoom, our Sunday morning discussion group or our Friday morning Bible Study for some interesting reflection and study. And some take the time during Lent to attend our Wednesday evening Celebration of the Holy Eucharist or our Friday evening Stations of the Cross as a Lenten discipline. Or perhaps you might think about arriving a little earlier than usual when you attend on Saturday, Sunday or Wednesday and attend Morning or Evening Prayer prior to the start of the Holy Eucharist.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE DIOCESE, learn about interesting online presentations, or get some ideas for your parish? Get the diocesan eNews delivered weekly to your mail inbox! Go to nb.anglican.ca/signup and subscribe with your email address. And have a look around the diocesan website while you are there.

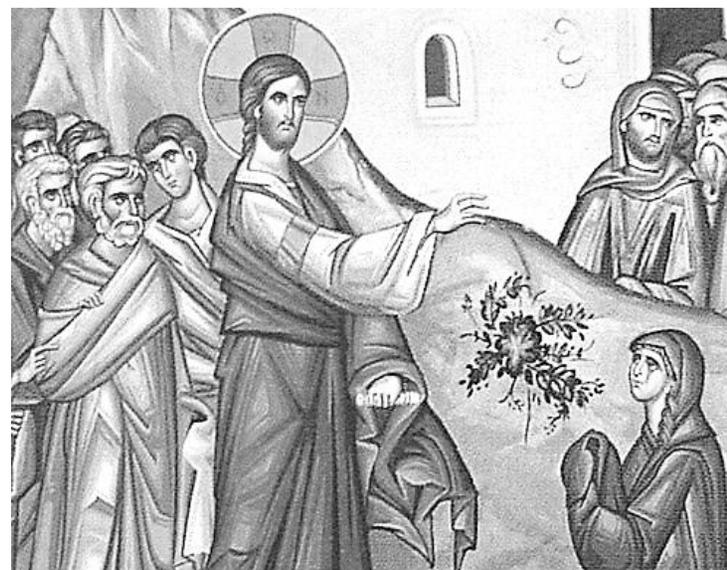
SAFE FOOD HANDLING COURSE: We're very pleased to announce that we have finally been able to schedule the Safe Food Handling course that we spoke about in the Fall. Chef Yves Dechaine, Learning Kitchen Manager at Greener Village, will be offering the course on the morning and afternoon of **Wednesday, April 27th**, here at St. Mary's. Those who previously expressed a wish to receive the training are asked to confirm with the Rector in the next couple of weeks if they are available in that date. If it doesn't, we'll have to proceed with that date, but others may be able to join the class if spaces become available. Please speak to the Rector as soon as possible.

OUR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held each Friday **from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom**. We've started 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.

PLEASE JOIN US EACH FRIDAY IN LENT at 7:00 p.m. for the *Stations of the Cross*, which is a quiet reflective service in which we journey through Christ's steps on the road to the Cross. This brief service is an excellent and hopeful mediation on what Christ was accomplishing on our behalf by His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Our task, as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to the world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to the world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to the world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion.

N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Easter*

PRIEST AND RECTOR

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THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 2022

*Great is your faith!
O come, let us worship!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalms 62 & 64 | Exodus 2:11-22 | Colossians 1:21-2:7

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 25:1-7:	page 358
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Lent</i>	
The Collect:	page 143
The Collect for Ash Wednesday:	page 138
The Old Testament Reading:	Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 25:8-13:	page 358
The Epistle:	page 144
Gradual Psalm 123:	page 498
The Holy Gospel:	page 144
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
Post Communion Prayer:	page 85

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

MARCH 15: LENTEN FERIA

10:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

With the Clericus of the Archdeaconry of Fredericton

MARCH 16: EVE OF ST. PATRICK’S DAY

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MARCH 17: ST. PATRICK, Missionary & Bishop, 461

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

MARCH 18: EVE OF ST. JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

MARCH 19: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MARCH 20: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

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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 
Foundation of Canada for our Renewing St. Mary’s Project.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 13, 2022

*Great is your faith!
O come, let us worship!*

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 51 | Genesis 32:1-30 | Hebrews 10:19-end

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

571 (ALL FOR JESUS)

The Gloria is omitted during Lent

The Collect: *page 143*

The Collect for Ash Wednesday: *page 138*

The Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 17:5-10*

Psalm 25:1-7 *page 358*

The Epistle: *page 144*

Gradual Psalm 123: *page 498*

The Holy Gospel: *page 144*

The Creed: *page 71*

The Homily

♪ **OFFERTORY HYMN:**

241 (ALBANO)

The Prayers of the People: L: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer

The Consecration: *page 82*

Post Communion Prayer: *page 85*

♪ **RECESSIONAL HYMN:**

812 Verse 6 (DEIRDRE)

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