

# From the Priest in Charge

(The following is an edited version of a column written by Fr. Stockall)

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. 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.

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We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

## *Parish Notices and Updates* \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2023** are available in the Narthex. (*Those not collected within the next few weeks will be mailed out.*)

**PLEASE JOIN US EACH FRIDAY IN LENT** at 7:00 p.m. starting on February 16th 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 meditation on what Christ was accomplishing on our behalf by His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. In recognition of our Shared Ministry with the Parish of Marysville, we will be alternating the location between the two churches. We'll be starting on the **16th at St. Mary's** and on the **23rd we'll be at All Saints'**. Please join us whenever you can.

**THE SEASON OF LENT** begins this week:

- **Thank you** to those who have brought palms!
- **The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** will take place **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-6:00pm**. There is no admission fee, but free-will donations will be accepted and applied to the capital loan repayment of the renovated entryway. All are welcome!
- **Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**:
  - o **10am at All Saints, Marysville** – Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes (Morning Prayer at 9:30am)
  - o **7pm at St. Mary's** – Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes (Evening Prayer at 6:30pm)

**FRIDAY NIGHT ZOOM EVENING PRAYER** will be taking a break during Lent. Please join us for Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7pm, followed by the short service of Compline at 7:45pm.

**THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORTS** are now available. Electronic copies will be included in the Saturday email for the next two weeks, and some paper copies are available in the Narthex. *Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, following the 11am service.*



*Please join us in the Parish Hall  
following the 11:00 a.m. Celebration  
for Coffee and Conversation.*

*The Anglican Church of Canada  
The Diocese of Fredericton*

## THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



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God *is* love. Again, “Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us” (I John 4:10). We must not begin with mysticism, with the creature’s love for God, or with the wonderful foretastes of the fruition of God vouchsafed to some in their earthly life. We begin at the real beginning, with love as the Divine energy. This Primal love is Gift-love. In God there is no hunger that needs to be filled, only plenteousness that desires to give.

C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

EVE OF THE SUNDAY CALLED  
**QUINQUAGESIMA**

*Saturday, February 10, 2024*

*Thou art the God that doest wonders: and didst  
declare thy power among the peoples. (Ps. 77)*

**4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:**

✠ Psalm 55 | Genesis 29.1-20 | Romans 11

**5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

Introit Psalm 31.1-6:	page 364
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 136
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 9.8-17
The Epistle:	page 136
Gradual Psalm 31.22-26:	page 366
The Holy Gospel:	page 137
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
The Biddings & Intercession:	page 75
The Consecration:	page 82
Post Communion Prayer:	page 85

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**FEBRUARY 13: SHROVE TUESDAY**

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

3:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

8:00 p.m. – Compline

**FEBRUARY 14: ASH WEDNESDAY**

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Marysville

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

**FEBRUARY 15: LENTEN FERIA**

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, Paradise Villa

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

**FEBRUARY 16: LENTEN FERIA**

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross (*St. Mary's*)

7:45 p.m. – Compline

**FEBRUARY 17: EVE OF THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

**FEBRUARY 18: THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer, *All Saints, Marysville*

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *All Saints, Marysville*

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

*Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Hall*



**PRIEST IN CHARGE**

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# THE SUNDAY CALLED QUINQUAGESIMA

*February 11, 2024*

*Thou art the God that doest wonders: and didst  
declare thy power among the peoples. (Ps. 77)*

## **11:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist**

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	<b>470</b> (HYFRYDOL)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 136</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 9.8-17
Psalm 31.22-26:	<i>page 366</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 136</i>
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	<b>472</b> (CAPETOWN – 439)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 137</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	<b>539</b> (DOMINUS REGIT ME)
The Biddings & Intercession:	<i>page 75</i>
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
♫ HYMN AFTER COMMUNION:	<b>246</b> (SONG 1)
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	<b>803</b> (GWALCHMAI)

*We welcome The Rev'd. Wilfred Langmaid  
as Celebrant for this morning's service.*

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