

From the Rector _____

The journey that we begin on Ash Wednesday is inevitably a journey to the Cross; but, as you may know, the image of the crucifixion can be a barrier to those who wish to focus on the positive parts of Christ's ministry. For some, the image of crucifixion is too ugly and brutal to be looked upon; it is a reminder of the more primitive elements of humanity's religious heritage: a kind a bloody death to avenge a blood-thirsty God, as some have said. And when we look at the crucifixion from that perspective it is easy to imagine that we no longer have any need for such a primitive relationship with our creator. Some would rather focus on the more attractive parts of Christ's ministry – the Sermon on the Mount, for example, or Christ's healing of the sick or his act of humble service in washing the feet of his disciples. For many, these are more positive images with which to shape our personal faith; and in a world which already has too much violent bloodshed we can perhaps imagine why some feel this way. But when we choose to turn our gaze from the Cross we cut ourselves off from the one thing that gets to the root of the human condition and human brokenness in all of its unrelenting reality; the one thing that can offer hope in the face of a broken world.

The crucifixion speaks on many different levels of how Christ bridges the unbridgeable gap between God and fallen humanity; that is, humanity trapped in unending cycles of alienation, suffering, and violence. Holy Scripture speaks of how Christ pays the price for sin which we were unable to pay; of how he offers a perfect sacrifice on behalf of an imperfect world; and, in the process, of how he shows us that self-sacrifice is the only remedy for the self-centeredness that inevitably builds walls between us. But, above all, his death on the Cross reminds us of the full depth of our condition; of how humanity lives with an illness that needed, and still needs, strong medicine; as we are again reminded by the senseless brutality of the war in Ukraine.

Sometimes when we have hurt someone we have to have it pointed out in obvious terms how painful our behaviour has been. We have to be reminded that what we may have assumed was just a small matter is actually far larger than we had thought; that it may be necessary to do more than just offer a quick, half-hearted apology and move on. The crucifixion reminds us that the broken relationships that mar our lives - whether our broken relationships with each other, with ourselves, with creation, or with God - will not be healed with just a quick, half-sincere apology. In his death and resurrection Christ gets at the root of the

problem and points out in obvious terms that the only way through our brokenness will be a willingness to be remade; by entering fully into Good Friday and Easter Day and finding new life in him.

It's not about satisfying the urges of a blood-thirsty God. It's all about taking on all the ugliness that life can throw at us, even the ugliness that can reside in our own hearts, and healing all of it with the only thing in the world that has the power to heal: that is, God's grace and love.



PARISH PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES REGARDING COVID-19:

As you know, the province has indicated that all existing public health mandates will be removed on March 14th. For many of you that will be a welcome relief; the many different restrictions and limitations over the past two years have proven a great challenge to many of you. But for others, and especially for those who vulnerable to the virus and its potential long-term effects, the removal of all mandates will create a new set of challenges as they seek to some sense of safety and protection in public settings.

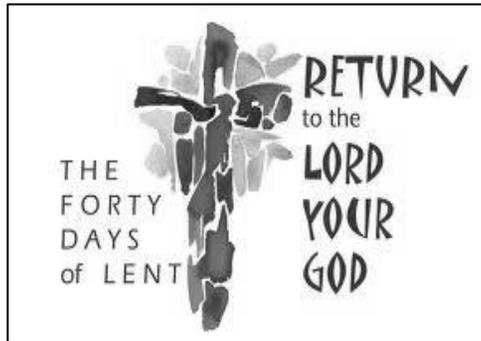
The government has been very clear that even though publicly mandated protocols will be removed, businesses and organisations have the authority to enact such protocols that they deem essential to the welfare and health of their membership. What that means for us here at St. Mary's is that we will need to have a conversation about how we should proceed as a Parish Family when the mandates are lifted. You may recall that last summer parish leadership chose to keep all masking and distancing requirements in place, with some lessening of the parish's masking policy, even though the province had lifted many restrictions. We did so because many of you indicated at the time a desire to take a slower, wait-and-see approach. That approach proved prescient when the government had to reinstate the protocols a couple of months later.

The Parish Corporation will be reviewing and recommending a parish-specific policy in advance of March 14th; and we ask all the members of the St. Mary's Parish Family to let us know their thoughts. In order to make an informed decision the Corporation will need to hear your concerns and opinions. It may never be possible to satisfy all perspectives, but we will try to take into consideration what you have to suggest as we determine what parish policy should be.

Please speak to the Rector or Shannon and Andrew, the Parish Wardens, as soon as possible.

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 a 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.



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Parish Notices and Updates _____

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.

EACH WEEK ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON a few members of our Parish Family gather on Zoom at 4:00 p.m. to pray Evening Prayer together. It has proven to be a blessing to all those who have joined us, serving as a calm and peaceful way to conclude the week. If you're interested in joining us, even just occasionally, please speak to the Rector who will be happy to forward 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



**Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God,
but with forgetfulness of God.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Creation and Fall/Temptation*

PRIEST AND RECTOR

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THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 2022

*Behold, now is the day of salvation!
O come, let us worship!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 25 | Genesis 41:41-end | Romans 16

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 91:1-8:	<i>page 448</i>
The Ten Commandments:	<i>page 68</i>
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Lent</i>	
The Collect:	<i>page 140</i>
The Collect for Ash Wednesday:	<i>page 138</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 3:1-6
Psalm 91:9-13:	<i>page 448</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 140</i>
Gradual Psalm 91:14-16:	<i>page 449</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 141</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 Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiik (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 Wəlastəkwiik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MARCH 9: LENTEN EMBER DAY

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MARCH 10: LENTEN FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

MARCH 11: LENTEN EMBER DAY

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

MARCH 12: SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MARCH 13: SECOND 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 for our Renewing St. Mary’s Project.



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 6, 2022

*Behold, now is the day of salvation!
O come, let us worship!*

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 38 | Genesis 29:1-20 | Hebrews 4:14-5:10

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	593 (ROCKINGHAM)
The Ten Commandments:	page 68
<i>The Gloria is omitted during Lent</i>	
The Collect:	page 140
The Collect for Ash Wednesday:	page 138
The Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 3:1-6
Psalm 91:1-8	page 448
The Epistle:	page 140
Gradual Psalm 91:9-16:	page 448
The Holy Gospel:	page 141
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
♪ OFFERTORY HYMN:	105 (HEINLEIN)
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:	500 (SONG 46)

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