

## Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

**T**oday's readings are about forced quarantine. On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprous and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of reincorporating the marginalized man into society.

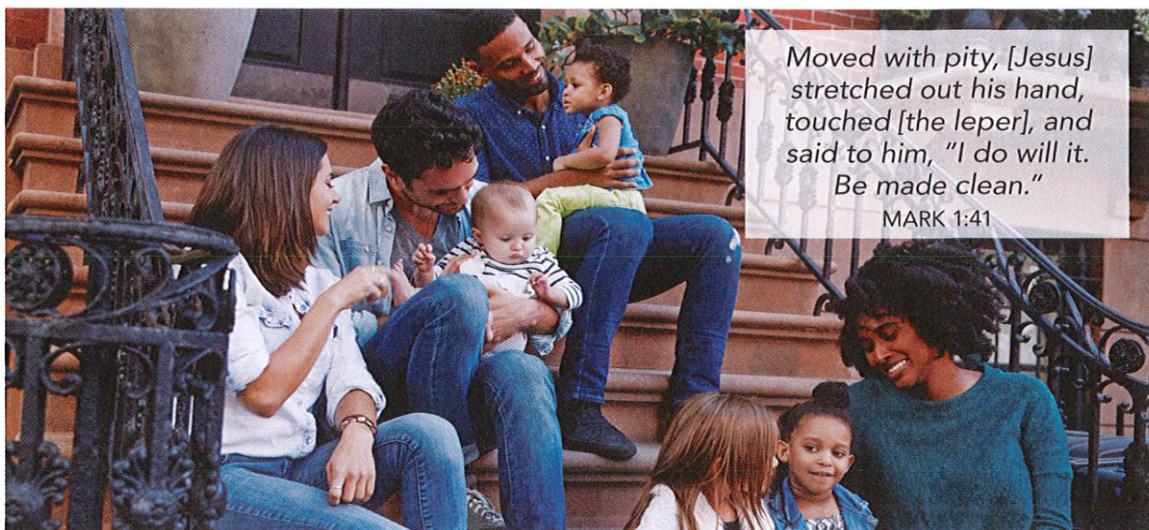
Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority,

some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✧ Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- ✧ What might be done to reverse this bias?



*Moved with pity, [Jesus] stretched out his hand, touched [the leper], and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."*

MARK 1:41



**WE ARE IN COVID-19 ORANGE PHASE**

**50 PERSONS MAXIMUM @ MASS, FACEMASKS ARE MANDATORY**

*A great prophet is risen among us;  
God has looked favorably on his people.*

**WELCOME TO THE PARISH UNIT OF:**

**St. Bernard's, 43 Botsford St., Moncton NB E1C 4W9**

**St. Vincent (Sackville) & St. Clement's (Port Elgin)**

**MASS TIMES – WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15-21, 2021**

St. Bernard's	Ash Wednesday @ 9:30 AM
	Friday @ 9:30 AM
	Saturday @ 4:00 PM
	Sunday @ 11:00 AM
St. Vincent	Sunday @ 9:00 AM
St. Clement's	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 7 PM (call to confirm – 538-2262)

**PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM**

<b>Priest Moderator:</b>	Fr. Allison S. Carroll	<b>Social Justice:</b>	Claudia McCloskey
<b>Assistant: (part-time)</b>	Fr. Charles Broderick	<b>Catechetics:</b>	Lorella Dunnett
<b>Liturgy</b>	Darlene McGraw	<b>Adult Faith:</b>	Dr. Andrew Wilson

**STAFF**

<b>Secretary</b>	Darlene McGraw	sbhf@rogers.com or <a href="mailto:darlenemcgraw@rogers.com">darlenemcgraw@rogers.com</a>
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Lorella Dunnett	Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Louise Tardif	
<b>Custodian</b>	Michel Saulnier	
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Mike Murphy	

**Access to the Parish office is restricted.**

**Phone messages & emails are checked regularly.**

**If you wish to make an appointment call the parish office to arrange a time.**

**Parish office: 506-857-0425 Email: [sbhf@rogers.com](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com)**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15-21, 2021**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feb. 17</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Anniv. late Whitney & Mary McCully	Family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	Anniv. late Jim MacInnis	Irene & family
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 20</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Late Marcia LeBlanc	Gloria Whitehead
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feb. 21</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	Anniv. late Harris Sullivan	Louise Ongo

Changes to current Covid-19 phase will be noted on the parish phone (857-0425) and the parish website: [www.stbernardschurch.ca](http://www.stbernardschurch.ca)



## Inclement Weather Policies

IN THE EVENT OF A STORM OR INCLEMENT WEATHER  
CANCELLATIONS WILL BE NOTED ON:

ST. BERNARD'S WEBSITE: [www.stbernardschurch.ca](http://www.stbernardschurch.ca)

OR BY CALLING OUR PHONE LINE @ 857-0425.

## In Sympathy

*A time to mourn...*

*Our sincere sympathies to the family of:*

**Sister Ruth Calvert, f.j.**

Sister of Barbara Bowes (late Edward), Ruby Lagacé; brothers: Richard, Walter, Robert, Paul, & John

**Rob Robichaud**

Husband of Hazel

**Jim Cleveland**

Brother of Esther (Roger) Berube

*And to all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*



*Ecclesiastes 3...*

*Under every season there is a time...A time to heal...*

*We remember in our prayers those who are sick...*

**Roger Berube**

**Beverly LeBlanc**

**Conrad Coughlan Jr.**

**Beth Purcell**

**Menard Chiasson**

**Bernie Cormier**

**Judy Chiasson**

**Alex Cormier**

**Jim Damiani**



## Listening and Prayer

Are you in need of prayer?

Are you going through a difficult time?

You can confide in the prayers of the  
Notre-Dame-du Sacré-Coeur Sisters.

Phone 388-1701 or 1-800-561-3995.

**Hours: 9:30 - 11:30 AM and 2 - 4 PM (Mon-Fri),  
6 - 8 PM on Wednesdays.**



### Father Allison Carroll

A brief note to update parishioners. Father Carroll continues to recover / recuperate. Some days are good, some days are not so good. He will still be out for a time, so, we ask that you all continue to pray for him, as we all continue to give him the time and space needed for a full recovery.

Father Carroll does wish to express heartfelt thanks to all for the prayers, cards, well wishes and love that has been sent his way. All is so deeply appreciated.

Jesus Loves the Little Children...



### St. Bernard's Faith Formation

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation	Saturday	May 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 10 AM
Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation:	Saturday	May 8 <sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM
Celebration of the Sacrament of First Communion	Sunday	May 9 <sup>th</sup> @ 11 AM

*Please pray for St. Bernard's youth*

*as they prepare to receive these sacraments. God bless each one of them and their parents as they continue to grow in their faith journey.*

**Catechetical Gatherings:** *Until we return to Yellow Alert Level, children's catechism will be held virtually. Please arrange with your parish catechetical coordinator to have the necessary supplies for the sessions.*

### 2020 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

As a result of Covid-19 and the need to always maintain six feet social distancing, tax receipts **will not be available for pick up at the church or parish office.** Once tax receipts are ready, they will be mailed out to parishioners.

**Heartfelt thanks to everyone for their generous support to the Parish.**





**Please note:**

**Due to the pandemic and other factors, the current owner of the old St. Bernard's Rectory will be putting the property on the market.**



**During this Covid-19 period church contributions decrease.**

However, expenses to run our church remain constant.

**If you are able to**, please give consideration to continuing or making up missed donations.

**Optional ways of contributing during Covid-19:**

1. **Online:** St. Bernard's website @ [www.stbernardschurch.ca](http://www.stbernardschurch.ca) (through CanadaHelps)
2. **Mail:** Cheques may be mailed. *Include name, address & envelope # if applicable.*
3. **Or simply put you donations aside** until you are able to attend Mass.



*Thank you for your continued support  
to St. Bernard's !!!*

**OFFERINGS**

**MASSES CANCELLED FEBRUARY 6 & 7, 2021 – RE: COVID-19 RED PHASE**

**EVENING PRAYER**

Christians are called in baptism to be people of prayer, to pray always, praising God and pleading for the world. Our priest-moderator, Fr. Carroll, encourages us at the beginning of Lent to be more cognizant of prayer during the Lenten season. Why not try gathering with the faith community for Evening Prayer? It only takes up a half hour of your time. We follow the format for Evening Prayer that is offered in our Catholic Book of Worship. **All parishioners of**

**our parish unit are invited & encouraged to gather for Evening Prayer Thursday evenings at St. Bernard's Church at 6 PM - February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25.**





**Did you know? ... Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting & of abstinence from meat?**

**Christian fasting** obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open for prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving & to save money to give to the poor. The law of **abstinence** from meat binds those who are 14 & older; the law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age. Parents and educators are reminded of their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance.

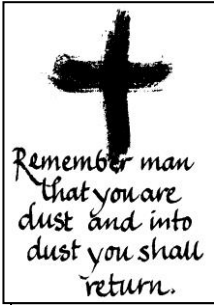


**COUNTDOWN FOR LENT**

**Ash Wednesday is approaching!**  
**Lent begins Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

Lent is a time of repentance, change of heart, and prayer.

Ashes that are used to mark the beginning of Lent normally come from the branches that were blessed and distributed the previous Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.



ASH WEDNESDAY– FEBRUARY 17, 2021	
St. Bernard's	9:30 AM
St. Vincent's	7:00 PM
The collection taken on Ash Wednesday is for the Needs of the Church in the Holy Land.	

**Mondays at the Movies:** Everyone is invited to join our film discussion series this Lenten season designed to connect popular films to our faith. On Monday, March 8th at 6:30 PM we will meet via Zoom to discuss the film, *My Sister's Keeper* (2009), based on the novel by Jodi Picoult. On March 29th, we will meet via Zoom at 10:00 am to discuss the film *Forrest Gump* (1994), based on the novel by Winston Groom. For each session, participants will have watched the film ahead of time. Contact Karen for more information and to register at or [ihmccatechism@rogers.com](mailto:ihmccatechism@rogers.com) or 387-4198. **Mondays at the Movies** is a collaborative effort between St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit and the Archdiocese of Moncton Office of Youth Faith Development.



From the Diocesan Offices of Faith Development,  
Liturgy and Youth Faith Development  
45 York Street Trevor 857-4879 [trevord.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:trevord.diocese@gmail.com)  
[Ellen857-9952\\_ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com](mailto:Ellen857-9952_ellen.diocesemoncton@gmail.com)

**Catechetical Gatherings:** Until we return to Yellow Alert Level, children's catechism will be held virtually. Please arrange with your parish catechetical coordinator to have the necessary supplies for the sessions.

**Faith Experiments Express (via Zoom):** Learn about faith using science experiments! Designed for young people in grades 1-6, participants will be guided step by step through various fun and simple science experiments that will help them to learn more about faith and scripture. The next sessions will take place at 6:30 pm on February 22, and March 22. Contact Karen at 387-4198 or [ihmccatechism@rogers.com](mailto:ihmccatechism@rogers.com) to register.

**~~The End is Nigh~~ of an Era: Exploring the Book of Revelations, Part 2:** *Can you provide further explanation of the many symbols in the Book? What is some liturgical imagery found in the Book? What does it all mean?* This is your last chance to register for this second session of the *Book of Revelations* with Dr. Fiona Black and Dr. Andrew Wilson. We meet virtually on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. when Andrew and Fiona will respond to questions which surfaced during the first session and dig a little deeper into the end of the world images we see in Revelation passages. Join us this time even if you couldn't the first. Contact Ellen to register and you will be sent the appropriate link during the day Tuesday.

**"We're All in this Together": Exploring Pope Francis's encyclicals, Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti:** Lent – a season of repentance and conversion. Pope Francis continuously calls us to see the world through a different lens, a lens which emphasizes the unconditional and unending love of God for all God has created; a lens which highlights the connectedness of all God has created. In *Laudato Si'*, written in 2015, he writes the earth "cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her." (LS#2) In his most recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, released in 2020, he writes: "It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity." (FT#8) Pope Francis says that each encyclical was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, a saint who "did not wage a war of words aimed at imposing doctrines ... [but] simply spread the love of God." (FT#4) Let us attempt to spread that love of God, as we discern the message contained in these two encyclicals and reflect on how we are called to respond. Join Sr. Denise Lirette, fj and Dr. Andrew Wilson on February 18, March 4 and March 18 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. While it is our intent to offer a hybrid of these sessions, given the fluidity of the COVID-19 challenges, we are uncertain at this time, whether in-person gatherings will be able to happen, so it may have to be all virtual. We'll keep you posted. For now, register with Ellen.

**Adult Faith Commission** meeting has been rescheduled yet again – darn COVID – to Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will keep our fingers crossed that by that time, Zone 1 will be out of red alert, out of orange alert and back to yellow alert. Meeting time, 6:30 at 45 York Street.

# Dear Padre,

**At Mass on holy days of obligation, there's a fair crowd. But on Ash Wednesday, not a holy day, the place is packed. Your explanation?**

**I**ndeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well, but it's "standing room only" on Ash Wednesday. Although not a day of obligation, perhaps it's considered a "holy" day by most Catholics.

There's something elemental about the smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. No matter our walk of life or social status, we want that sooty cross. It's a badge of identification, graphically reminding Catholics that it's "spiritual gut-check" time. It jogs us from our routines, spurring us to the important reality of being who we are supposed to be—fully and totally Christian. It's as if we are saying, "I'm Catholic and proud of it. I may not be the best or greatest. I have faults and sins, but I'm not a bad person. I know deep down that being Christian is the way to live, and I'm going to try again."

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—a people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our baptismal commitment to be his people. As we celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

*From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



THOMAS/SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Contrary to the dispositions of the Law of Moses, which prohibited a leper from drawing near, Jesus extends his hand and even touches him....Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to touch the poor and the excluded, because he is in them. Touching the poor can cleanse us from hypocrisy.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 22, 2016



## Calendar

### Monday

FEBRUARY 15

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

FEBRUARY 16

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

FEBRUARY 17

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12–18

2 Cor 5:20–6:2

Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

### Thursday

FEBRUARY 18

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15–20

Lk 9:22–25

### Friday

FEBRUARY 19

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1–9a

Mt 9:14–15

### Saturday

FEBRUARY 20

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

### Sunday

FEBRUARY 21

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8–15

1 Pt 3:18–22

Mk 1:12–15