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| ***Worship Calendar*****Sunday, April 7th, Second Sunday of Easter** **10:30 a.m**. – (White) **Family Service** (AG Team 2) Followed by a Cup O’ Tea in the Parish Hall**Sunday, April 14th, Third Sunday of Easter** 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist: **Sunday, April 21st, Fourth Sunday of Easter**10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist**Sunday, April 28th, Fifth Sunday of Easter**10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist |

**A Note from the Treasurer:** Please ensure your **envelope number is on** all financial **correspondence** so that we can credit your account for income tax purposes.

**Parish Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**2024 Bulletins -** If you’d like to give a weekly bulletin to commemorate the life of a loved one or in Thanksgiving for an event in your life, please contact David in the office for the dates available.

***Service Roster:*** Sidespersons Sound Room

April 7th Leanne S. Andrew B.

April 14th Tracey C. James S.

April 21st Jo-Anne R. Philip G.

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| Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel RoseDiocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene TaylorRector: The Reverend Canon Josiah “Jotie” Noel, T.S.S.F.(Third Order, Society of St. Francis)Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa CoxOrganists/Choir Director: Stephanie Gavell, Amanda Dawe-LedwellParish Wardens: Rex Hillier & Leanne SquireOffice Administrator: David Kelland |

**Welcome to the**

**Parish of St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

**March 31, 2024**



**The Bulletin is given to the Glory of God**

**and in Loving Memory of:**

**Our Mother, Elizabeth Hiscock**

**By**

**Shirley Butt & Elizabeth Power**

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***Our Parish Mission Statement***

***We believe in nurturing a community of faith dedicated to inclusion, support and sharing the story of God's love with all people regardless of the stage of their spiritual journey***

*But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised,* (Matthew 28: 5-6)

**The Parish Office will be CLOSED**

**Monday, April 1st and will reopen Tuesday, April 2nd at 9:00 a.m.**

Here you are, come to the church’s celebration of Easter.

For some of you, it is quite enough for you to come to church, see the flowers, and sing the songs, and you steadfastly, firmly believe, “He is risen!” Others of you come to church, see the flowers, sing the songs, hear the sermon, but come away muttering, “I just can’t say for sure. I just don’t know what to believe.”

Still others of you see all the evidence, hear the complete testimony and scripture’s rationale for believing, but you are waiting. For you, resurrection faith is not so much intellectual assent as it is waiting for your name to be called: “Mary,” or “John,” or “Lea.”

How have you come here this Easter morning? What path has brought you here? What race did you run to the empty tomb?

We all come from different places and different understandings. Some of you are sure; some are not so sure. Some of you have a rich, well-formed understanding of scripture; some of you hear this as completely new information.

It does not matter how you have come here. What is important is the promise implied behind today’s Easter Gospel: the risen Christ is not here, not entombed in a dead, ancient past.

He is risen! He’s on the move!

Moving toward you, eager for you to see and, in seeing, to believe, wanting to give you what you need in order to believe, calling your very own name.

I don’t care how you come to Easter. Christ’s promise is that you won’t go away the same.

Even amid your questions, doubts, or reservations, Christ will give you the faith to be able to say to the world, in one way or another, “I have seen the Lord!”

*God unlimited by mortal fear or the tomb’s cold grip:*

*in the lingering dark give us grace to know your life triumphant,*

*your love undimmed,*

*and your grace affirmed in the face of Jesus Christ,*

*the firstborn from the dead. Amen. (ACC)*

**Easter Flowers: -** Any donations towards the Easter Flowers will be gratefully received and acknowledged in the next Bulletin.

**We invite prayers for those who are sick -** Patricia B., Elaine M., Benjamin C., Doug T., Tammy H., Jeanette P., Wally H., Trudy T., Brad L., Ruby H., Kelly R.

**Annual Meeting –** The annual meeting for the parish will be scheduled shortly; This is reminder for all groups and organizations to prepare their reports and submit them to the office by **Thursday, April 4th**.

**Bible Study – LUKE** – Bible Study, resumes on Wednesday, **April 10, 10:30 a.m**. Join us as we continue to study the Gospel of Luke references for Sunday worship. If you do not have a Bible, we can provide one for you, as well as a large print copy of the lesson for the study.

**Life in the Eucharist** is a program whereby young children are prepared to participate more fully in the Eucharist where they receive Communion before Confirmation. This program is designed for young families. In fact, it recognizes that the parents are the key people in nurturing children in the faith. After completing this program, the young people come and make their first Communion with the rest of the congregation and continue to do so for the rest of their lives. If you are interested, or know of some family who might be, please contact Canon Jotie.

**The Laying on of Hands** – In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, **Sunday, May 26,** **2024**, 10:30 a.m. we plan to start Confirmation Classes in late April. Confirmation Candidates should currently be in Grade 6 or older. Please contact the Church Office to register or for more information (709-834-2336 or sjtetopsail@nfld.net).

We are ready, willing and able to prepare adults for Confirmation if you may be interested. Please contact Reverend Jotie for details.

**Bereavement Services of NL Health Services**, Eastern Urban and Rural Zones invites people grieving the loss of a loved one to join an 8-week Living with Grief Support Group. There are virtual and in-person options available beginning April 11, 2024.

To register, or for more information, please email: griefandbereavement@easternhealth.ca or contact: (709) 777-6959.

**Bishop’s 2024 Easter Letter**

Dear Beloved Disciples,

***“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”*** (Gospel of Luke 24:30-32)

Hope is central to Easter. It is not just a mere aspiration, desire, or ambition but a hope grounded in the knowledge of what we believe to be true. Specifically, it is a hope founded on the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord.

When the disciples walked along the road to Emmaus, they were lost in despair and confusion. They had witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus, and their hope that he was the Messiah had been shattered. They were demoralized and didn't know what to do next.

However, when the Risen Jesus appeared to them and broke bread with them, their hope was restored. He reshaped their understanding of the story, reminding them of the prophecies of old and how they had foretold that God would do something new. He reminded them of how God had led his people to freedom in the past and how he had come repeatedly to redeem his people. He showed them that God never acts according to what people expect.

As the disciples listened to Jesus, scales fell from their eyes, and they recognized him. They remembered how their hope had begun to grow in their hearts when they met him on the road. The resurrection demonstrated that hope is not blind, ridiculous, or naive. It is a hope that can stand even in hard times, a hope that lifts our eyes to new horizons.

Easter hope is not just a belief but a way of life. It is a hope that changes things and raises our eyes to broader horizons. It is a hope that enables us to see what Jesus is doing and encourages us to join. As we pass on this hope to others, we become part of the business of hope.

There are many challenges today in the lives of so many people. From refugees fleeing their war-torn homeland to those without a home to call their own in our own Province, there are so many reasons to despair. But as Easter People, we are called to have hope and, as an Easter Church, to become a beacon of hope for the world.

The Easter season is a time of renewed hope and inspiration. As we reflect on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are reminded that even in our darkest moments, hope can be restored. The hope that comes from the belief that Jesus Christ is Lord is not just a mere aspiration but a hope that can stand even in hard times and lift our eyes to new horizons. As Easter People, we are called to have hope and become a beacon of hope for the world. By spreading the message of Easter hope, the Church can ultimately transform the world into a more harmonious and hopeful place for all.

May our hearts burn within us as we encounter the Risen Christ in new places and unexpected faces. I offer an Easter Prayer by Steven Shakespeare:

**Lord of the gathering feast, you walk with us on the shadowed road: burn our hearts with scripture's open flame; unveil our darkened eyes as bread is torn and shared and from the broken fragments bless a people for yourself; through Jesus Christ, the host of the world. Amen.**

In the Risen Christ,



The Right Rev. Samuel Rose

Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador