

LIVING FAITH

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE
(CHRIST THE KING)

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus teaches in parables in order to give us glimpses of what God is like. People often think that the Kingdom of Heaven is a place or a state of being that will exist after our earthly life is finished; but this is not the Kingdom that Jesus speaks of so often in His stories. The Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus speaks of, the Kingdom that He worked so hard to bring about, is possible here on earth, if we love one another. And love looks like this: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, tending the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. When we do these things to one of the least of our sisters and brothers, we do these things to Jesus.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Love is Something
You Do



MERCY IS LOVE IN ACTION

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES...

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 25), and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs. They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.



VISIT THE PRISONERS

People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.

- See if your parish, or a nearby parish, has a prison ministry and if so, get involved.
- Contact our Prison chaplain to see ways to help. Gerry@bellaliant.net
- Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison.

BURY THE DEAD

Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

- Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one.
- Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost.
- Spend time planning your own **funeral** mass, read through the Order of Christian Funerals and find our hope in the Resurrection.

Watch a reflection on the corporal works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKH5vjVdoZg>

The archdiocese of St. John's has begun the exciting and challenging process of implementing our renewal plan, "A Promise of New Life . . . Courage to Renew."

For more information please contact Peter Whittle, Renewal Plan Coordinator

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Cellular: (709) 697-1998 pwhittle@rcsj.org

Visit: <https://rcsj.org/strategic-planning-2>



You asked!

The Sacrament of Anointing: Reflections from the Bedside

As a minister of the Sacrament of Anointing, I frequently celebrate and administer the sacrament. However, I am also a witness to the power of the Sacrament along with the recipient and other family members who are present. Priests, the ordinary ministers of the sacrament of Anointing (or any sacrament for that matter) must always stand humbly before the power of Christ at work in the life of the Church and behold themselves standing equally with other members of the faithful in witnessing God's grace at work.

In this article, I would like to reflect with you about that which we all see at work in the sacrament; my reflection comes solely from what I witness with others. At the bedside of many patients in hospital, home or parish those of us in Pastoral/Spiritual Care encounter people who are often perched on the edge of what I call, metaphorically speaking, an abyss. This dark abyss is filled with fears and unknowns: the fear that sickness brings as it threatens health, the losses of independence and mobility, the possible loss of one's home if health concerns demand a move, and the possibility of death to name just a few. Sometimes people are pulled to the dark abyss because of sudden, tragic and violent circumstances.

I have witnessed many moments when the grace of the Sacrament brings tangible things to people. The Sacrament of Anointing, we believe brings the comforting presence of Christ and the prayer of the universal Church to the sick person. The Sacrament of Anointing calls down the power of God and reminds all who experience it that God is among us, no matter what happens. The spoken prayers and the rituals communicate the sacred when our own words fail us because we do not know what to say. The Sacrament and its rituals bring a moment of peacefulness to chaos, and dignity and respect when they were obscured or taken.

Also, I think the Sacrament of Anointing, reveals with great clarity, the purpose of the Church ... to show the transforming and salvific love and care of Christ. To show that Christ is present to us in hard as well as easy days, the bad and the good, the dark and the light. It shows that because Christ is present to us, then Christ will transform such times and bring a transformative love to them. That is the paschal mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

- Rev. Tony Bidgood, CSsR



Thanks to Fr. Tony Bidgood C.Ss.R for his contribution to this week's Resource.

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SAINTS AND BLESSED OF CANADA

Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis



Marie-Leonie Paradis
died in 1912.

Her feast day is May 3.

She was beatified on
September 11, 1984 by
Pope John Paul II

Elodie Paradis was born in the village of L'Acadie in Quebec, Canada. It was May 12, 1840. Her parents were poor but devout Catholics. They loved their little girl. When Elodie was nine, her parents decided to send her to a boarding school. They wanted her to have an excellent education. The Sisters of Notre Dame warmly received the new student. But Elodie and her family missed each other very much.

Mr. Paradis worked hard running a mill. But times were bad, and the mill did not produce enough to support his wife and children. He heard wonderful reports of the gold rush in California. He was so desperate that he decided to go. In California, Mr. Paradis did not find the wealth he hoped for. When he returned to L'Acadie, he was shocked to find that his Elodie had joined the convent. She had entered the Holy Cross congregation on February 21, 1854. Mr. Paradis went to the convent. He begged his daughter to return home, but she chose to remain. Finally, her father accepted it. She pronounced her vows in 1857.

Blessed Marie-Leonie taught school in different cities. She prayed and lived her life joyfully. As time went on, Sister Marie-Leonie was led by Jesus to begin a new religious order in the Church. The Little Sisters of the Holy Family were begun in 1880. These loving sisters are devoted to the priesthood. They serve priests in the household care so important to their ministry. The Little Sisters of the Holy Family now have sixty-seven convents in Canada, the United States, Rome and Honduras.

Mother Marie Leonie worked for her sisters until the last few hours of her life. She was always frail and often ill. But she never stopped caring for God's people. She put the last corrections on the pages of the book of rules she had written. She had it sent to the print shop. That book would give her sisters the guidance they would need for their life. It was Friday, May 3, 1912. Mother Marie-Leonie said she felt very tired. She went to rest and died a few hours later. She was seventy-one years old.