

The Parish Light

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter – March 2020



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Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of penitence or cleansing of the soul. Many Christians will attend Lent services, and be marked with a cross of ashes on their forehead. This is a sign of mortality, based upon the idea from the book of Genesis that humankind came into the world from dust and will return to it. It is a time to express sorrow over sin, and a reminder that Jesus brings freedom from sin. The following 40 days are an opportunity to remember Jesus' death.

Lent culminates in Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, a day which commemorates Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem on a donkey. In many churches the congregation are given palm crosses, whilst others wave palm branches. Occasionally a donkey is paraded near (or even in!) a church.



MISSION TO ST PAUL'S BY THE SEA, COROZAL, BELIZE

During the last week of January 2020, a small team of 5 people went to St. Paul's by the Sea Anglican School in Corozal, Belize at the request of the Bishop Wright of the Diocese of Belize to help in the School. The team consisted of 3 from Northern Lights Parish; Bishop Larry and Sheila Robertson and Mrs. Judy Flax; and 2 from the Edmonton area; Rick and Heather Leslie.

We taught songs, told stories and did crafts and other activities. There were 150 children at the school and we met for 4 days with them. The theme was the Love of God. The last day, at the request of the School, we had a presentation about Canada. The children were eager to learn and there was a great deal of joy in the room daily.

At the end we were able to leave all of our supplies with the school as well as 500 Belizean dollars to go towards some badly needed painting of the School. Mission comes in many forms and I believe God touch the heart of many through the generosity of the members of the team and the people of Northern Lights parish who gave money to help the mission.

In the near future we are planning a special night to share more of the story.



Blessing

Bishop Larry Robertson

Memo from God

To: All His Children

I am God.

Today, I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

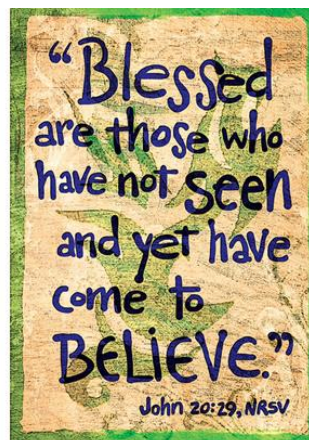
Should you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror, think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!



Two old friends met each other on the street one day. One looked forlorn, almost on the verge of tears. His friend asked, "What has the world done to you, my old friend?" The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you: three weeks ago, my uncle died and left me forty thousand dollars."

"That's a lot of money."

"But you see, two weeks ago, a cousin I never even knew died, and left me eighty-five thousand dollars, free and clear."

"Sounds to me that you've been very blessed."

"You don't understand!" he interrupted. "Last week my great-aunt passed away. I inherited almost a quarter of a million from her."

Now the man's friend was really confused. "Then, why do you look so glum?"

"This week . . . nothing!"

That's a problem with receiving something on a regular basis. Even if it is a gift, we eventually come to expect it. The natural tendency is that if we receive a gift long enough, we come to view it almost as an entitlement. We feel hurt, even angry, if we don't receive it any longer.

It is the same way with the blessings God gives us every day. I don't *deserve* my comfortable home that I live in, the beautiful scenery around me, the clean water I drink. But after receiving these gifts (and a multitude of others) for years, I sometimes fail to be grateful. I've come to expect these good things. And when one of them is removed for a short time (like water or electricity or internet going down), I get upset.

Let's make an effort today to recognize the blessing we've come to take for granted. Focus on what we have rather than on what we don't have, and see if it doesn't improve our attitudes.

Dry Bones



COMING EVENTS

March 29th - 5th Sunday Service

St. Thomas, Perryvale

Bishop David Greenwood

Officiating

11:00 am - Potluck lunch

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***Chili Supper And Loonie Auction***

*Hosted by St. Andrew's Zion, Colinton and St. Thomas, Perryvale*

Sat., Apr. 4 2020 at 5:30PM

St. Andrew's Zion, Colinton

\$7.00 (suggested donation)



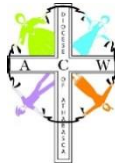
Bring Your

Friends

Appetite

And Loonies

# **Diocese of Athabasca ACW - Women's Conference May 1-3, 2020**



**Hosted By  
Parish of the Northern Lights  
At  
St. Andrew's Zion, Colinton, AB**

## **Relationships**

**"Come near to God and he will come near to you. ...."**

**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." James 4:8-10**

*Guest Speakers: Rev. Rosemarie Howell and Melody Shologan*

*All women are welcome - Join us and bring a friend for the Diocese of Athabasca  
Annual Women's Conference!*

*Registration Forms Now Available*

**Registration is \$75.00**

*Any questions about the weekend please get in touch with our conference coordinator - Joanna Muzyka  
780-689-8053 or [joannamuzyka@hotmail.com](mailto:joannamuzyka@hotmail.com)\**

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**ACW Women's Conference - BILLETS NEEDED -**

If you are able to provide accommodation for those

wishing to be billeted for the ACW Women's Conference May 1-3 2020 in Colinton please be in touch with

Sheila Nielsen - email [sheilalnielsen@gmail.com](mailto:sheilalnielsen@gmail.com) or text 780-993-5869. Thank you!