



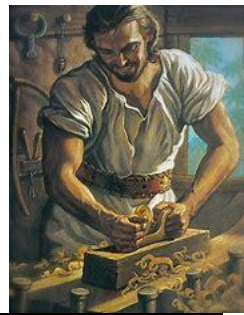
# PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

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## Palm Sunday

† APRIL 5TH 2020, ORDINARY TIME YEAR A †

REV. DOUGLAS MACDONALD – PASTOR  
Fatherdouglas@gmail.com  
GLEBE HOUSE: 902-794-4599  
Rev. Mr. Roy Smith, Deacon

**Leadership Ministry Team**  
Pam Hall-Faith Formation, Cavell Young – Bookkeeping, Janis  
Rose & Cathy MacDonald- Liturgy, Monica Shebib-Baptism,  
Sonny Guy-Communion to Sick, Richard Rose-Finance

TEL: 902 -794-3951

### ST. JOSEPH PARISH NEXT WEEK

Date	Location	Time	Details
Mon. April 6th	Private Mass		Mass of Chrism
Tues. April 7th	Private Mass		Michelle MacDonald
Wed April 8th	Private Mass		Health Care Workers
Thurs. April 9th	Private Mass		Holy Thursday
Fri. April 10th	Private Mass		Good Friday, Passion of the Lord
Sat. April 11th	Private Mass		Holy Saturday
Sun. April 12th	Private Mass		Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord-Parshioners

### PARISH NEWS

**Parish Office Hours** – Since our bishop has closed all churches and halls for the time being, the Parish Office in North Sydney will be closed to the public for the time being. The bulletin will continue to be emailed to everyone who has provided us their email address during this shut down. We will give weekly updates and stay connected as a parish, so consider calling the office to add your email address to our parish list. We will get through this difficult time together.

**Funerals During Church Closure** – Bishop Kirkpatrick has confirmed the following: Funerals will take place during this indefinite period of church closure however they are not open to the public. Funerals are for immediate family members only, with no choir and no altar servers. There will be no eucharist offered at these funerals, instead a Liturgy of the Word funeral will be celebrated. The mass will be offered privately by me for each deceased person. Thank you all for your understanding during this difficult time. Peace, Fr. Doug.

### Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are doing well and keeping engaged as the world puts us all in self-correct mode. Since we cannot go to church, we are invited to stay at home, and make every home a domestic Church?

The visible Church is doing various things at this time as well. What, can the pope do to make himself actively present in the life of each member of the faithful? There's a unique act only he can perform: the papal blessing "Urbi et Orbi," which translates from Latin "to the city [of Rome] and to the world." At this extraordinary blessing Pope Francis said, "The worldwide coronavirus pandemic is not God's judgement on humanity, but God's call on people to judge what is most important to them and resolve to act accordingly from now on.

Addressing God, the pope said that "it is not the time of your judgment, but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."

Pope Francis offered his meditation on the meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for humanity March 27 before raising a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and giving an extraordinary blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world). Peace Fr.Doug.

### Holy Week Suggestions:

Since people will not be able to attend Easter masses and services at St Joseph's with me at the usual times, I invite you to do the following Holy Week Suggestions:

**Holy Thursday** - wash each other's feet at home as a sign of service.

**Good Friday** - Do a procession around your home with your crucifix, then bring into the living room and venerate.

**Easter Vigil** - Light a candle and place in the window.

### New Plenary Indulgence

Because of the pandemic, anyone who, with "the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible," recites the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) with the intention "to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself," can receive a plenary indulgence each day.

### The Coronavirus Novena - Week 2

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns -- You know what's in our hearts. We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them. Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

(Mention your intentions here)

St. Anthony the Great, patron of those affected by infectious diseases, pray for us!

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Irish Priest's stirring poem about lockdown LockDown

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new  
way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality:  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
Our Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

Poem by an Irish Priest, Fr. Richard Hendrick, an Irish Capuchin

[A free resource to pray the weekend liturgy at home.](https://us.magnificat.net/home/freeonline)  
<https://us.magnificat.net/home/freeonline>

### New Way to Donate

With the increase in concern over the spread of COVID-19 and with added precautions for everyone in Nova Scotia, The Diocese of Antigonish has added a **DONATE** button to the

Website. Please let parishioners know that they still can donate to their parish.

Anyone can open the Diocesan website and then click on the tree or the word **\*Donate\*** at the top of the home page.

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/>

The diocese will pay all fees and will send weekly cheques to any parishes that receive donations on line.

### State of Emergency in Nova Scotia

On Sunday the Premier of Nova Scotia declared a state of emergency in our province. In light of this new status, Bishop Kirkpatrick has instructed that all church buildings temporarily be closed to the public to help in the province wide effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). St Joseph Parish office is closed to the public, but emails and phone messages will be answered. You can also call me at the glebe house anytime: **902-794-4599**. During this time, staff at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, continue to work either in the office or from home as they are able. I am here to offer whatever assistance I can during this challenging time. Last week I held two funerals for immediate family only (max 5 people), so life continues in different ways Easter services will not be open to the public this year, but they will take place privately by me your pastor at the usual times in the church. As we continue to find alternate means to gather as the people of God, many people are watching mass on television or on the internet. May I also recommend saying the rosary and chaplet of Divine Mercy each day. Mass is said daily for the people of North Sydney and you are all in my prayers at this fragile time.

Peace, Fr. Doug.

**RADIO MASS** will be Broadcast every Sunday from Saint Ninian's Cathedral on 98.9 XFM, Antigonish at approximately 0815 hours for as long as we are in shut down. We will also be Broadcasting the Good Friday Service. More information will be sent along regarding The Good Friday Services.

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**Salt and Light website for daily masses**, including Pope Francis mass from Rome. <https://saltandlighttv.org/>

**Who to contact if you have symptoms or need info:** Call 811

**Canadians Abroad in need of emergency assistance**  
call: 613-996-8885 or email: [sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca)

### Community Compassionate Care

**Kids Help Phone** – 1-800-668-6868

**Prevention Through Action** – reporting and healing incidents of abuse or misconduct in our diocese. Rev. Charles Cameron 1-902-863-4373 or email: [charleshugh7@gmail.com](mailto:charleshugh7@gmail.com).

**Canada Suicide Prevention Service** – 1-833-456-4566 or Text. 45645

**Canadian Sport Abuse Help Line** – call/text 1-888-837-7678  
[infor@abuse-free-sport.ca](mailto:infor@abuse-free-sport.ca).

**Compassionate Community Care** – 1-855-675-8749 Euthanasia Prevention Advice, Support, Confidential and Free.

**Expectant Mother Fund** – Diapers, formula, and baby accessories for parents in need. Please phone 902-794-3951.

### Quote of the Week

*“Our goal should be to live in radical amazement... get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal... To be spiritual is to be amazed.”-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*

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**PEACE BE WITH YOU AND HAVE A GREAT WEEK!**

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