

# The Well of the Word

Lectioary themes for February 2012

PATRICIA DATCHUCK SÁNCHEZ  
and RAFAEL SÁNCHEZ ALONSO

With yet another month unfolding and with Ordinary Time evolving so suddenly into Lent, we come again to the well of the word to drink of its wisdom, to be washed clean by its truth and to be more fully committed to its challenges. Because the sacred texts for each Sunday speak their own unique message they often resist any effort to distill a common monthly theme, except for the fact that God's living word speaks to every moment and circumstance of the human condition.

God's word speaks to those for whom life is hopeless drudgery. Through the character of Job (Feb. 9) those saddened by the struggles of life are encouraged to be frank with God, who listens to all who burden themselves. Job's often bitter and bitter harangues assure believers that they do not need to hide back or make nice with God, who knows us better than we know ourselves.

Like Job, however, we are encouraged not to remain entrenched in our misery. Although belated at length with his sufferings, Job eventually allowed God to lead him out of the darkness into a new day. Without fully understanding why things happened as they did, Job finally arrived at a place of acceptance and trust in God. His example prompts us to remember that God has the power to make all things new (Feb. 12).

Through the healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Feb. 5), the leper (Feb. 12) and the paralytic (Feb. 19), we will be reminded that the word of God can be therapeutic. Each of those whom Jesus cured with a word or an action were freed from their burden and called to live their lives more fully. Peter's mother-in-law got up from her sickbed and began to minister to Jesus and his disciples (Feb. 5). Freed of disease, the leper began to tell others of what Jesus had done (Feb.



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12). Forgiveness needed by Jesus, the paralytic did as Jesus said; he picked up his mat and walked home with the friends who had brought him to Jesus (Feb. 19). Their friendship witnessed the responsibility each of us has for one another, in good times and in times that try our patience, our faith and our hope.

While most of us have had a fever, few of us will be paralyzed, and even fewer will ever contract leprosy. Nevertheless, we are stricter with any number of physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, moral and even economic maladies in our lives. Through all we may suffer, we are not alone. God's word speaks to every wound and touches every scar. In those times when we cannot discern the healing in God's word, God sends friends, those whose caring and concern bring us to help and healing. In those times when we are called to befriend another and share their burdens, we find the strength and the grace to do so in the word.

During his ministry Paul had the opportunity to befriend and share the burdens of many. In his Corinthian correspondence, excerpts of which are read on Feb. 6, 12 and 13, Paul tells us the mindset that enabled him to do so. Through his belonging to Christ, Paul learned the impor-

tance of adaptability. He called it "becoming all things to all" (Feb. 6). Rather than cling to a generic, one-size-fits-all missiology, Paul shaped (but did not dilute or adulterate) his message to his intended recipients. He earned their respect by always saying what he meant and by meaning what he said; he called on others to do likewise by letting their "yes" be "yes" and their "no" be "no" (Feb. 19). Paul's ministry was exemplary; whatever he did — whether he ate or drank, when he chastised, when he challenged and whether he preached by word or by example — he did all for the glory of God (Feb. 12). If we also measured our words, deeds and decisions by that norm, the Gospel we preach would be truer and more recognizably authentic.

But despite our best intentions, we often miss the mark and fall short of our anticipated goals. For these reasons, our church year is punctuated with pauses during which special attention is given to our relationships with God, with the world and with one another. These pauses will ask us to be truthful regarding our sinfulness and will encourage our sincere repentance. During the special pause we call Lent, the first Sunday of which is Feb. 26, let us allow ourselves to be gathered in ever more closely to the word and to grace so as to be truer images of God in the world.

Patricia Datchuck Sánchez and Rafael Sánchez Alonso have been collaborating to provide lectioary commentaries and homilies for Catechists since 1979.

# BULLETIN

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## THE PARISH FAMILY...

St. Bartholomew  
Melrose, N.B.  
(Founded 1820)  
Alternate Saturdays at 7:00pm

St. Clements  
Port Elgin, N.B.  
(Founded 1820)  
Alternate Saturdays at 7:00pm



St. Vincent  
Sackville, N.B.  
(Founded 1928)  
Sunday at 9:00am

St. Bernard's  
Moncton, NB  
Saturday at 4:00pm  
Sunday at 11:00am

Pastor: Fr. Allison Carroll: 857-0425  
Port Elgin Rectory Staff: Suzanne Jones (538-2262);  
Bulletins: Vivienne Edwards (538-2262) - Deadline: Thursday by 12 Noon  
Sackville Rectory Staff: Barb Bowes (536-1460)  
R.P.C. Chair & St. Bartholomew's L.P.C. Chair: Robert Strang (538-7757)  
St. Clements' P.C. Chair: Patsy Murphy (538-7648)  
Diocesan Website: [www.diocesemonctor.ca](http://www.diocesemonctor.ca)



Mass Intention: Port Elgin, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 7:00pm Late: Leona LeBlanc  
By: Jean Trenholm 312726

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 2012	St. Clement's	St. Bartholomew's
Reg. Env.	\$ 340.00	\$ 300.00
Collection	\$ 26.10	
Parish Donation		\$ 200.00
Cemetery Donation		\$ 200.00
Candles	\$ 6.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 352.10</b>	<b>\$ 700.00</b>



\*Sanctuary Lamp By: Simonne Strang  
Cemetery Donation IMO Daniel Ryan  
Thank you for your generous and continued support!

*Ecclesiastes 3... Under every season, there is a time... A time to heal:*



Ted Carroll, Duane Murphy, Nancy Strang, Edna Brien, Emma Cormier, Baby Mathis LeBlanc, Irene Lane, Jori Hicks, Alfred Doron, Lorraine Legere, Bernadette McGrew, C.W. Cole, Cheryl Doucette, Tara Archambeault, Lina Heeroo, Cathy Robichaud, John Aubin, Stanley Munger, Helena Coulter, Betty Cail, Donna Kauffmann, Anna Schmal, Rita Trenholm, Jim Cail, Hazel Nicholson, Tricia Wood, Debbie Parke, Marilyn Norton and Flavie Robichaud.



Prayer for our Troops... we pray for all those who serve...

**FUNDRAISING FOR A NEW ROOF AT ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH**

Fundraising is ongoing for the desperately needed new roof for St. Clement's Church to help with the cost. In the entrance of St. Clement's church you will find a container that you can put your donation in, if you would like a receipt put your name, address on an envelope and I will see that you receive a receipt. No donation is too small. Thank you for your support...

**2012 Church Envelopes:** Assigned boxes for envelopes are available on the table at the back of churches. Please pick up your envelopes and take a look to see if there is one assigned to a shut in friend or neighbour that you might deliver. Blank boxes are available at church entrance for anyone wishing to use envelopes for contributions. If using envelopes for the first time, please include your name and address. Any question you can call Suzanne at 538-2262 or 538-7677. Thank you

# What's going on

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, Leona LeBlanc of Port Elgin passed away. May Leona's family, Paul, Gary, Phyllis Ann, Lorraine and her dear friend Jean find comfort in the Risen Christ. May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Parish Vitality:** This project presently being implemented in all the parishes of the diocese, invites you to take part in a reflection on the future of your parish. You can participate in this reflection by consulting the Pastoral Ministry Team or the Pastoral Council of your parish unit. You can also obtain more information by visiting the diocesan website at [www.diocesemoncton.com](http://www.diocesemoncton.com) or by phone at (506) 857-9537, ext. 230.

**World Youth Day 2013 - Rio de Janeiro:** Young people between the ages of 18-30 who are interested in making the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Brazil in 2013 are invited to the information session on January 31st, 2012. Both sessions will be held at the Diocesan Centre (452 Amirault, Dieppe) and will begin at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Trevor Drosbeck at the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 857-9531 ext 298 or [trevor.diocese@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.diocese@gmail.com).

**Bishop's Appeal** – Put on hold for the duration of the major financial campaign, The Moncton Diocese has reinstated its annual Bishop's Appeal campaign this fall. You may have received one of the invitations that were sent out by mail this week. We encourage you to respond generously so that the diocese may continue answering its present and new needs to fulfill the mission of the Church. For more information, please contact the Archdiocese of Moncton Foundation, 452 Amirault St., Dieppe, NB E1A 1G3, Phone 506.857.9531, ext. 292. (Please make cheque payable to: Archdiocese of Moncton Foundation, Inc.)

**Valentine Pot Luck Supper**

St. Clement's Church Hall Port Elgin, N.B.  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
Adults \$9.00  
Children \$5.00  
Preschoolers Free  
All are Welcome

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL  
FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN

MERCY

**Income for both Churches from Oct.-Dec., 2011**

St. Clement's	Total Income	Total Expenses	Total
October	\$ 2294.82	\$ 1173.95	\$ 1120.87
November	\$ 3411.39	\$ 2425.63	\$ 985.76
December	\$ 3235.43	\$ 3775.08	\$ - 539.65

  

St. Bartholomew's	Total Income	Total Expenses	Total
October	\$ 2376.46	\$ 682.31	\$ 1694.15
November	\$ 4590.61	\$ 3663.53	\$ 927.08
December	\$ 6513.06	\$ 6552.64	\$ - 39.58

Thank you for all your kind donations throughout the year. May God Bless

**Respite: A Gift of Time** – Respite Services for Children with Special Needs is a non-profit program who is intended to protect, support and enhance families of children diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Volunteers have the option of providing a few hours a month of respite care in their own home, in the child's home or socializing in the community. We have children waiting for volunteers to provide respite. Together we can support those who really need our help! For information contact Natalie Sherwood, t.s. Program Director – Respite Care Services for Children with Special Needs. Telephone: 506.869.6774, Fax: 506-853-7855

**BRUNCH – Knights of Columbus Council 1310** – (84 Broadway St.) – Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 12:30. Cost: Adults \$6, Children (under 12 years of age) \$2, Children under 5 free.

**Vision Bookstore: Monthly Sales** – Come visit us at 452 Amiralut Street, Dieppe (Diocesan Centre) on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 to 4:00 and take advantage of a special monthly sale where all books and CDs (in stock) will be reduced by 10%.

**From the Office of Faith Development – Spiritual Practices .. Ways to Keep Grounded in Self and God** - To help us prepare for the season of Lent, we will reflect on various spiritual practices and how they ground us in God and enable us to see and respond anew to this constant invitation of love. Join Claudette Dendale for this day long session on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Parish Hall from 9:30 to 3:30. Lunch is included. Claudette is Director of Adult Faith for the Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity Pastoral Unit. She has presided for the Office of Faith Development on several occasions in the past. Pre-registration is necessary by February 13<sup>th</sup>, and may be done by contacting Ellen Bennet at 857-9531 ext. 227 or [ellen.diocesemoncton@ab.aiibn.com](mailto:ellen.diocesemoncton@ab.aiibn.com).

**FLU SEASON:** – It is difficult to avoid contracting a virus because it is easily transmitted in common areas and public places. However we can limit its spread between people and objects.

- Please cough into your elbow or your upper arm
- Do not cough into your hands
- Use disposable tissues only once, then discard
- Wash your hands properly and frequently, especially after touching commonly handled objects such as door knobs, hymnals, pew backs, etc.
- Keep your hands away from your face, especially your mouth

***Please consider self-screening before attending any public gatherings:***

- ✓ Do I have a cough?
- ✓ Have I been in contact with someone who is ill or has flu like symptoms?

**Please avoid public gatherings if you have answered yes to any of these questions. Please do not put others at risk.** If you suspect you might have contracted a virus but are not feeling ill and wish to attend Mass, you might consider: Instead of shaking hands during the Sign of Peace – a reverent bow would be the appropriate gesture; avoid picking up hymnals, etc.; to received communion in the hand-not on the tongue; reverence the cup by a bow rather than receiving. We all need to do our part to protect one another, especially those with compromised immune systems, the frail elderly and the very young. Each person will need to determine his or her own tolerance level when it comes to participating in public gatherings.



Sacrament of Anointing

**COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

It is important that those who are sick and those around them understand the significance of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as a **sacrament of healing**. **Who should celebrate this sacrament?**

- Those who are elderly and whose frailty is becoming more pronounced
- Those adults and children who are suffering from a major illness. Illness comes in many different forms - physical, mental, psychological, emotional, and spiritual.
- Those who are facing or recovering from surgery or serious medical tests
- Those suffering from a serious accident.
- Those who suffer from chronic illness such as arthritis or diabetes
- Those who care for the sick, especially those who are closely bound in love to them.

The English churches of the Moncton Diocese work together to offer this communal celebration two or three times a year. Join us on **Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM** for mass and the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** to be held at St. Bernard's, 43 Botsford St, Moncton. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in this celebration.