

RECONCILIATION – April 2020-03-25

Annunciation Blessed Virgin Mary Parish – Nipigon,

We are gong to have a feast; he or she was lost and is found.

Song: 686/2 cbw – COME BACK TO ME.

Come back to me with all your heart. Don't let fear keep us apart.

Trees do bend, through straight and tall; so must we to others' call.

Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.

The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak.

Integrity and justice with tenderness you shall know.

Long have I waited for our coming home to me and living deeply our new life.

You shall sleep secure with peace; faithfulness will be your joy.

Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.

INTRODUCTORY RITES.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

May all happiness be with you in purity of spirit and in the word of God our Father. **AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.**

Blessed be God our Father who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has entrusted to us the work of reconciliation in this world. May this pardon ad peace be always with you.

1. A Father Prodigal with his love. Can you imagine that, when half-heartedly sorry for the stupidities of your sins, you tall God that you come back to him, He embraces you and prepares a feast for you?

It is almost like a hero's welcome! A God prodigal with his love waits for us; the past belongs to the past. Let us join in the feast of forgiveness. Why do we still hesitate to return to the forgiving Father. PAUSE

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us pray to God our Father, and ask for the grace to obey his will for us..
(PAUSE)

All praise to you, Father of all, ruler of the universe: you have loved us so fully that you sent your Son to save us. In obedience to you will he accepted death on the cross, and you raised him in glory to give us new.

Help us to turn away from sin and follow him in love, ready to listen to your Spirit and eager to do your will. All glory and praise are yours, Father, for ever and ever. AMEN.

LITURGY OF THE WORD.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians: 5:8-14.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth; and find out what pleases the Lord.

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

But everything exposed by the light becomes visible- and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “:Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

MEDITATVE SILENCE.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

ALL: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

ALL: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Heat, O Lord, when I cry aloud,

Be gracious tome and answer me!

Come, my heart says, “seek His face!

Your face, Lord do I seek.

ALL: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord;
In the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
Wait for the Lord.

ALL: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

I will get up and go to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned
Against heaven and before you.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you. AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke: 15.1-3;11-32

Glory to you o Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord. PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL.

LORD, renew us in your love.

Song: 198/ G&P – Here I am, Lord.

I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin; my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

PRAYER FOR SINNERS.

Let us pray for sinners and ask God our Father to forgive us:

O gentle God, enfold us in your compassion as we turn our hearts toward confessing our separateness, our choices that isolate us from each other and from You. Resurrect us to our original state of oneness with You, our creator, with one another, and with all life. Help us to remember that when one suffers, all suffer. Help us to know that when another experiences joy or sorrow, it is our own joy or sorrow.

Give us the Grace to unite ourselves with the mind and heart of Christ Jesus, the Incarnate One as we approach ourselves and one another, without judgment and with unconditional love. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

Song: 708/2 cbw – I will never forget you.

I will never forget you, my people; I have carved you on the palm of my hand. I will never forget you; I will not leave you orphaned. I will never forget my own. Does a mother forget her baby? Or a woman the child within her womb? Yet even if these forget, yes, even if these forget, I will never forget my own. I will never forget you, my people; I have carved you on the palm of my hand. I will never forget you; I will not leave you orphaned I will never forget my own.

EXAMINATION OF CHRISTIAN LIVING.

In this season of penance and purification, we prepare to walk with Jesus through his suffering, crucifixion, and death on the cross.

We journey with Christ to the cross so that we might also explore the crosses in our own lives – the sins we commit intentionally or unintentionally, the ways we fail one another and God our Father.

The ancient Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving remind us of our need to repent and repair the damage done through sin so that we too. May rise to new life in Christ. May this reflection be your guide as you prepare to experience the sacrament of reconciliation this Lent.

The questions are written for private reflection and prayer, or they may be of help in a parish reconciliation service.

AS I GROW MORE FULLY INTO THE PERSON GOD CREATED ME TO BE, DO I REMEMBER TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD? ALL

THE COMMUNITIES OF THE EARTH SHAL FIND BLESSING IN YOU. – Genesis 12:3

Do I give thanks for my life's blessing?

Can I maintain trust in God's love in the face of suffering and pain in the world and in my own life?

When I feel I'm at my worst, do I call out for God's compassion?

“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, WITH WHOM I AM WELL. PLEASED; LISTEN TO HIM.” – Matthew 27.4

Do I practice the awareness of God's presence within me?

Do I remember that God and I are not separate, but united?

Do I notice the beauty of God's creation all around me?

“BUT WHENEVER YOU PRAY GO INTO YOUR ROOM AND SHUT THE DOOR AND PRAY TO YOUR father...” Matthew 6.6.

Do I make time for prayer?

When I pray, do I listen as well as ask?

Deeply in my heart, am I able to respond to what God is calling me to do?

YET EVEN NOW, SAYS THE LORD, RETURN TOME WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH FASTING, WITH WEEPING, AND WITH MOURNING..... Joel 2:12

Do I participate in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to returns focus to my need for God?

Do I truly believe that I am a child of God and that God loves me?

Do I turn to God also in times of joy and happiness?

AS I GROW MORE FULL INTO THE PERSON GOD CREATED ME TO BE, AM I COMPASSIONATE WITH MYSELF?

Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. – 2 Timothy 1.8

Do I offer myself compassion as I am thrust into life situations of hurt and pain?
Am I compassionate, with myself when I react in disappointment to my failures,
to my mistakes, to my imperfections?

Do I believe – do I remember – that I am a living member of the body of Christ?

HAVE MERCY ON ME, O GOD, ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST LOVE; ACCORDING TO YOUR ABUNDANT MERCY BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS. – PSALM 51.1

Am I continually comparing myself to others, judging myself and others according to my own and others' perceived expectations?

Am I addicted to substances or behaviours that are unhealthy or destructive, that hamper my abilities to make deliberate and compassionate choices for the good of all?

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE, WILL LIVE AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER DIE.” John 11.25-26

Am I able to let go of things in my life that are no longer life – giving?

When things happen that are beyond my control, can I step into the flow of grace and move on?

Do I feel sorry for myself or blame God for the difficulties in my life?

AS I GOM MORE FULLY INTO THE PERSON GOD CREATED ME TO BE, AM I COMPASSIONATE WITH OTHERS?

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. Isaiah 58.10

Do I remember that all people and I are not separate but united?

Am I willing to stand with people who are distraught, who have lost everything, and say to them; I am you?

Am I willing to stand with people I do not know who are oppressed, who are starving, who have no resources?

“I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND THE ONE WHO CURES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.” Genesis 12.3

In my family relationships, with my spouse, children, extended family...

Do I remember that we are one, that I am you?

Am I patient with their imperfections?

Am I willing to challenge their self-defeating behaviours?

Can I see them as God sees them?

Do I freely give them my love and openly receive their love?

Can I ask them, and can they ask me, for help?

“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEARTS WILL BE ALSO.” Matthew 6.21

With friends, coworkers, neighbours, acquaintances...

Am I aware that we are one, that I am you?

Am I kind to them, do I try to understand them, and treat them as I want to be treated?

Do I blame them for what happens to me?

Do I judge them without having the whole picture?

JESUS BEGAN TO WEEP. John 11.25.

Do I approach all other beings with Christ-like compassion, letting go of harsh judgments and looking for their best qualities?

When people around me are at their worst, can I tap into my own compassion?

Do I feel empathy toward someone who is suffering?

HAPPY ARE THOSE WHOSE TRANSGRESSION IS FORGIVEN, WHOSE SIN IS COVERED. PSALM 32.1.

Do I give people the space of grow and change?

Do I hold grudges from past hurts?

Do I forgive?

FOR ONCE YOU WERE DARKNESS, BUT NOW IN THE LORD YOU ARE LIGHT. LIVES AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT. Ephesians 5.8

Do I hide behind social media instead of creating face – to- face relationships?

Do I isolate myself so as not to become vulnerable with people?

Do I put forward a false image of myself for fear of my own imperfections?

AS I GROW MORE FULLY INTO THE PERSON GOD CREATED ME TO BE, AM I A COMPASSIONATE STEWARD OF GOD’S CREATIONS?

O gives thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
Psalm 118.1.

Do I remember that the earth and I are not separate, but united?

Do I cultivate an awareness of respect for and responsible use of the earth?

Do I treat the birds of the air, the fish of the water, the animals on the earth with kindness and gentleness, knowing that they depend on our interrelatedness to live?

“EVERYONE WHO DRINKS OF THIS WATER WILL BE THIRSTY AGAIN, BUT THOSE WHO DRINK OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE THEM WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY.” Jon 6.13-14.

Am I a conscious consumer of the earth’s resources, so as water, food, energy?

Do I make the connection between my extravagant use of the earth’s resources and the fact that other people around the world are deprived or whose lives are endangered because of my lack of awareness and compassion?

IN HIS HAND ARE THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH; THE HEIGHTS OF THE MOUNTAINS ARE HIS ALSO. THE SEA IS HIS, FOR HE MADE IT, AND THE DRY LAND, WHICH HIS HANDS HAVE FORMED. Psalm 95.4-5

When I hear the ecological distress signals of the land and air and water, am I willing to invest myself in long-term solutions that are for the common good?
Am I willing to make daily sacrifices so that future generation may breathe clean air and drink clean water?

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. Psalm 51.10

How might I follow Christ more full this Year?
What is one area of my life that needs tending and growth?
In what ways might I make amends for past hurts?

SILENT PRAYER: FEW MINUTES.

COMMUNITY ACT OF SORROW:

**Lord, you came to do the Father's will; help us to follow you in obeying him.
Lord have mercy. LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Christ, you have taught us to do the will of the Father; forgive us for the times we preferred to do our won. Christ have mercy. CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

Lord, you have made us children of the Father; teach us to follow you in love and obedience. Lord have mercy. LORD HAVE MERCY.

Song: 687/2 cbw – Father, I have sinned.

Father, I have sinned, help me find my way. Remember not my sins; just let me hear you say: I forgive you; I love you; you are mine; take my hand. Go in peace; sin no more, beloved one.

Father, I have turned by back and walked away. Depended on my strength, and lived life my own way. I forgive you; I love you; you are mine; take my hand. God in peace; sin no more, beloved one.

CONCLUSIN OF THE RITE.

**God our Father has taught us to love one another. Let us ask our Father in heaven to help us to do his will on earth. As children of God let us pray:
OUR FATHER.....**

ALL: O God of compassion, your limitless forgiveness flows over us, and in us, and through us, washing us clean, like a good spring cleaning after a long, frozen winter. Again, the chasm of our separation has been bridged by the expanse of your gentle, healing love.

**Hear our song of thanks and praise for the power of your Holy Spirit, dwelling within our hearts, who can bring what has been dead within us back to life, who can make Springtime flow out of the cold tomb of winter, and who raised you up on that first Easter Morning, in Jesus' name we pray.
AMEN.**

SACRED ACTION:

Jesus gives his forgiveness and peace to those who do God's will. Let us share his peace and love with one another.

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT:

May the God our Father, who has reconciled us in his love, continue to shower his blessings upon us. AMEN

May the Son, who died and rose to save us, forgive us our sins and help us to love one another more. AMEN.

May the Holy Spirit of God, who makes us his temples of love and praise, give us unending joy and peace. AMEN.

GOD, THE FATHER OF MERCY, THROUGH THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF HIS SON HAS RECONCILED THE WORLD TO HIMSELF AND SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT AMONG US FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS; THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH MAY GOD GIVE YOU PARDON AND PEACE AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

May almighty God Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, give us his blessing for ever and ever.

Song 666/2/cbw – Let heaven rejoice.

Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad; let all creation sing. Let children proclaim through ev'ry land "Hosanna to our King."

Sound the trumpet into the night; the day of the Lord is near. Wake his people, lift your voice, proclaim it to the world.

Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad; let all creation sing. Let children proclaim through ev'ry land "Hosanna to our King."