



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

**Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053**

April 27, 2025

**No Mass, in
Johnstown, on
Sunday April 27 or
Sunday May 4th. Fr.
Yake is away**

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

The First Reading is *Acts 5:12-16*. In a few plain and simple sentences, St. Luke, who wrote the Acts, gives us a bird's eye view of the young Christian community in Jerusalem. Their firm belief was that the Christ, whom the leaders of the Jews had crucified unjustly, had been raised by the Father from the dead, and was now in glory at the Father's right hand in heaven. "The breaking of bread" in common, the Holy Eucharist, the means Christ had planned and instituted before his death, of remaining with them on earth, was the other great bond of unity and strength which made them a compact community, distinct from their fellow Jews who refused to believe.

As yet they had no plans as to how the good news of God's intervention in the eternal destiny of man was to be brought to the world. They humbly and patiently waited for inspiration from the Holy Spirit whose direction and assistance Christ had promised them (Acts 1:4-7). This came in due time and the Apostles and their followers did their part nobly when called upon, as the later chapters of Acts show

Once the Apostles grasped the fact of the resurrection they recognized, in the beloved Master whom they had followed for three years, the One he truly was. They recognized in him the God-man—the man who had drained the cup of human sufferings to its bitter end, and the hidden God who allowed his divinity to appear again only when he had completed the task his Father had given him to do. St. Peter on the day of Pentecost expressed this new faith of the Apostles briefly but effectively: "Let the whole house of Israel know that God (the Father) has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord (God) and

Christ (the promised Messiah)." The resurrection, in other words, proved that Christ the Messiah was God as well as man.

The Second Reading is *Revelation 1: 9-13; 17-19*. These inspired words of John, read to us today, are intended to inspire us with still greater love and gratitude to the Risen Savior, who has earned for us a new life of glory and happiness beyond the grave, if we remain faithful to our Christian faith during the few short years of our earthly life.

The death and resurrection of Christ have taken the sting out of death for all true believers in Christ. As St. Paul says, referring to our resurrection: "When our mortal body puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the word that is written . . . O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15: 54). So no truly believing Christian should really worry about death or grieve for those who have gone. This does not mean that we must not care for our health, or that we can afford to be reckless and foolish in our mode of living. Each one of us has a certain number of years allotted to him in which he is to carry out God's will on this earth. We are not doing God's will if we shorten that term through our own fault. Not only is suicide sinful; so also is wilful abuse of health, which shortens one's life.

It is often said that death is the one and only future event in our lives of which we can be absolutely certain. But for the sincere Christian, that is for the one who is honestly, if fumblingly, trying to live each day in the love of God, there is a second certainty and it is: that death will open the door into the halls of heaven. Instead of being something to dread and fear it is the necessary prelude to our perfect joy and happiness.

The Gospel is *John 20:19-31*, doubting St. Thomas. It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the Old Covenant had some such powers also. Christ had "emptied himself of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading, because its author was none other than Christ "our Lord and our God." How prophetic were the words of Gamaliel at the meeting of the Sanhedrin which tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the new Christian faith: "If this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it." (Acts 5: 38-39).

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings*, Cycle C, by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection
April 20, 2025

Envelopes	\$540.00
Loose	\$125.00
Good Friday	\$55.00
Donations	\$335.00
Shrine Fund	\$300.00
Cemetery Fund I/M of Alice MacDonald	\$200.00
	\$1,555.00

Notices:

1: Sunday April 27/May 4 – No Mass in Johnstown or LÁrdoise for those 2 weeks, Fr. Yake will be away. Mass in St. Peters 5:30 on Saturday, River Bourgeois 4:00 pm on Saturday will still take place.

2: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: We are pleased to announce the fourth season of the Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market. This year the Market will operate 10:00 am to 1 pm every SUNDAY from June 29 to September 7th. Interested vendors should call 902-631-0209. Note: vendors do not need to commit to attending every week. Johnstown Landing is located across from the Johnstown Parish Hall.

3: Gaelic Flag Raising: May is Gaelic Awareness Month!

Come and join us for a Gaelic flag raising in Red Islands at District 10 Firehall, Thursday, May 1 at 10am Piper Edna Casey of River Bourgeois will give a few tunes. Followed by srùpag (a tea), hosted by the Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors, and join in a few Gaelic songs, lead by the Red Islands Gaelic language students.

4: "You are invited to a concert featuring the Cape Breton Chordsmen, including the Class Act Quartet and the Mixed Voice Acapella Group – The Accidentals on Sunday, May 4th, 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, East Bay. Admission: Donations at the Door."

5: Heavy Garbage Collection Schedule:

Waste should be placed curbside by 8am on Monday of the scheduled collection week for the area. Items placed at the curb after collection has started in the are may not be collected.

Week 3 (May 19 – 25)

Johnstown, Loch Lomond to St. Peters

Please see: <https://www.richmondcounty.ca/news-and-announcements/> for items that are allowed/not allowed

6: Summer Employment Opportunity

Diocesan Pastoral Centre
200 Churchill Drive,
Suite 103, Membertou
Client Service Clerk

We offer the successful candidate a busy office and sales environment where they can enhance their skill set and knowledge of client service, office procedures, and merchandizing. Working experience of Sage 50, Microsoft 360 Word, Excel and Outlook would be an asset.

Please submit your resume via email to Nick at nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca or submit in person at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 200 Churchill Drive, Suite 103, Membertou, Monday to Friday 9:00 – 4:30.

7: Schedule of Events that will take place at the Johnstown Parish Hall this summer: More information will be provided as the event get closer

Sunday July 6th, Our Lady of Guadalupe Outdoor Mass – 2:00 pm -Richmond County Men's choir will be singing. Please bring your own chair.

Sunday July 6th – Strawberry Festival – 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Saturday July 19th – Cold Plate Supper

Sunday August 10th – Cemetery Mass – 9:00 am

Sunday August 10th – Pancake Breakfast – 9:45 am

Friday August 22nd – 93rd Annual Milling Frolic and Square Dance