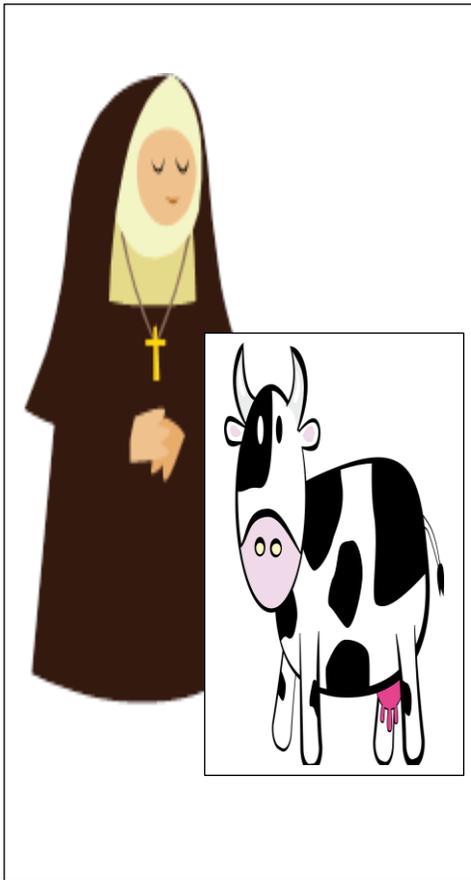


TODAY WE START WITH FUN!



The 98-year-old Mother Superior lay dying.

The nuns gathered around her bed
trying to make her last journey comfortable.

They offered her warm milk to drink but she refused it.

One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen.

Then, remembering a bottle of Irish Whiskey
that had been received as a gift the previous Christmas,
she opened it and poured a generous amount
into the warm milk.

Back at Mother Superior's bed, they held the glass to her lips.

The frail nun drank a little, then a little more and before
they knew it,

she had finished the whole glass down to the last drop.

As her eyes brightened,
the nuns thought it would be a good opportunity
to have one last talk with their spiritual leader.

"Mother," one of the nuns asked earnestly,
"Please give us some of your wisdom before you leave us."

The ancient nun raised herself up in bed on one elbow,
cocked her head, looked at them beatifically and said:

"Do not sell that cow."

(THANKS TO JANE L.)

Sorry to be late with new Scoops this week. Sadly, my sister-in-law Carolyn Cooper passed away in Burlington and I had to go with Kelly and Bill to look after the things that needed to be done. My daughter Sandi, son in law Michael, and son Ryan were also there working very hard.

Carolyn had no immediate family of her own, and she was alone when she died, thankfully peaceably, but all alone at the age of only 63. I'm back now, and happy to be working with my usual duties and the Scoop's ministry. I will be heading down again on Monday for a short visitation (in shifts of tiny little groups) and then there will be a Celebration later whenever that can happen. restrictions are lessened. So of course it is very sad, and she will be missed. She had a grand collection of friends in the area, was a great photographer and prolific writer in addition to her full time work with WSIB.

While I was there, I met (outdoors at ten feet with a mask on) several of her neighbours who had known her for over 50 years. They were telling me all the things that COVID has been doing to their lives. A son with cancer who's treatment has been put off for a long time. A hip replacement needed to help someone be able to walk, eye surgeries, no physical doctor's appointments and assessments.....all sorts of things that are not covid virus but are still being greatly affected by the pandemic and the necessity for safety for medical personnel as well as patients. Perhaps you are someone caught in the back log? Or know someone? I would like to ask us today to pray for people suffering from illness who cannot access the best degree of medical assistance needed. They need patience, courage, relief, practical help, encouraging words, and an understanding of how difficult this can be for them. Our medical people are doing everything that can be done, and more, yet restrictions mean prolonged suffering for many folk. If you know someone in this position, try to give them a call today! And if you are one of those people, and just need to rant, or have a prayer.....call me!

NEWS FROM ARCHBISHOP +ANNE:

Our Archbishop, true to her word, has sent a Pastoral Letter containing her decision with regard to same gender marriage within the Diocese of Algoma. Please go to the website and read it in full. Her wisdom and her passion and her prayerfulness



will touch your heart whether or not you are in agreement with the decision.

She has received with gratitude, with joy, and with some sadness the many responses to her invitation to send comments. All have been considered. I highlight some portions for you:

- She has granted permission for duly qualified same sex couples who are part of ecclesial communities and who intend to live in faithful and committed relationships to celebrate the sacrament of marriage in our diocese.

- Policies re marriage in Algoma apply...at least one of the couple must be baptized, that due notice is given, that marriage preparation takes place, and that an authorized rite is used, and that the marriage take place in a church. If a marriage is to take place in another public place, then the Archbishop's permission is required.
- The conscience clause for clergy applies. No cleric in the Diocese has ever been required to officiate at any marriage service and may decline to do so without providing a reason, while where possible they may refer the couple to another cleric who does not object, but they are under no obligation to do so.
- The Covid situation has disrupted our opportunity to gather publicly for worship, or have funerals or weddings within the Church. It may be some time before clergy are able to proceed with any marriage ceremonies, and this will leave time for our Archbishop to authorize a rite for Algoma.

The Archbishop goes on to remind us to strive to be reconciled with those with whom we have disagreed on the subject of same sex marriage over the years, and to ask God's forgiveness if any word or action of ours has caused another to leave our church.

These points are not all verbatim quotes If you do not have internet access to the Diocese of Algoma website to read the entire Pastoral Letter, and would like to receive one, please let me know and we will endeavour to mail out a print copy as we are able. Meanwhile, prayer first, dialogue second, and conclusions after great consideration. And love always.

I myself, having grappled prayerfully with Scripture, concur with Archbishop Anne's decision. And maintain respect and love for those who don't, those who have grappled prayerfully with Scripture and come to a different conclusion. –Judie+

WE NEED ANOTHER LAUGH NOW!

From Jacquie ... (not all words in this may be "acceptable" to all of us, but they won't hurt anyone a bit.... I think it is well worth the punch line -Judie)

The **American Medical Association** has weighed in on Trump's latest peculiar COVID response:

The **Allergists** were in favor of scratching it, but the

Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The **Gastroenterologists** had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the

Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

Meanwhile, **Obstetricians** felt certain everyone was laboring under a misconception, while the

Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the

Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

The **Psychiatrists** thought the whole idea was madness, while the

Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the

Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow.

The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

The **Podiatrists** thought it was a step forward, but the

Urologists were pi**ed off at the whole idea.

Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty

Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the

Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the a**holes in Washington.

(There, pull yourselves together, and forgive the **'s, and let's carry on for some Scripture)

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY: ACTS 1: 12- 26

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of ^[a] James.¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers ^[b] (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ "Friends, ^[c] the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now

this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong,^[d] he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it’; and ‘Let another take his position of overseer.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place^[e] in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Homily: We find in this Scripture a description of what the Disciples were doing when they obediently waited in Jerusalem until the promised coming of the Holy Spirit. Luke tells us they are in the same Upper Room where they had had the Last Supper. It must have been a big room, because now it holds 120 waiting people, including the 11, Mary, Jesus brothers, other woman and others who had been followers of Jesus during His earthly ministry. They were consistently devoting themselves to prayer. Peter, one day, decides its time for some administrative action. He retells the story of Judas. It is worthwhile noting some heretofore unknown and differing facts from the other Gospels. In Matthew 27, we are told that Judas was filled with remorse after Jesus was arrested, and went and threw the 30 pieces of silver back to the priests, who then took it and bought a Potter’s Field in which to bury foreigners, called the “Field of Blood Money”. Judas then went out and hung himself. In Acts, we are told by Luke that Judas himself used the money to buy a small farm acreage for himself, and fell from a height in that field causing abdominal rupture. This became known to all in Jerusalem as a “Field of Blood” and no one ever came to live in it or farm it again.

I share this as one example of how when Scriptures are contradictory, we are not to lose our faith....we are to understand that the events of that time were confusing and busy and different accounts of what happened surfaced. Both accounts are God-breathed, and can teach us a lot about the consequences of

evil, both proclaim truth, but both cannot be “factual” without a whole lot of mind-bending and creative imagining. We’ll have a study on all that someday! For now we just move to Peter saying that someone must be chosen to replace the 12th disciple. So they called a Parish Council Meeting and advised the top three and a decision was made after some election speeches. NOT!!! Notice how it went:

- A task was identified
- Two people who “fit the bill” of having been with Jesus from His baptism right through to His Resurrection, all the time, all the way were present and brought forward. They didn’t get to “affirm” they were willing to stand.
- Straws were handed out to everyone, every single person, male and female, disciples and followers, mother and brothers...and every single one present got a vote.
- They prayed that God would show them who He chose.
- The tally showed that Matthias was the one.
- And it was done. No vote recounts, no scrutineers, no “It should have been Justus” criers, just done and accepted. Matthias became an equal and permanent Apostle.

We do not hear anything more about Matthias in the entire New Testament. You can bet we would have, if Matthias was anything less than a true Apostle, a teacher of the faith, a man given over to leading the Jewish people (the 12 tribes) into the full liberty of the kingdom of heaven. A faithful servant of Jesus Christ, his Lord, and ours. Some traditions hold that he travelled into Africa, and Turkey but returned to Jerusalem for his final years of ministry. He is believed (by tradition) to have been martyred in the city of Jerusalem in AD 80, having been stoned by the populace (after the destruction of the Temple) and beheaded. It is enough to honour Matthias for accepting the will and call of God to Apostleship, and for being faithful in that ministry until his death. His feast day is May 14th in the Anglican book “For All the Saints”. We can emulate Matthias by also working to enable others, by our words and by our deeds, to know of Jesus and become children of the New Israel, descendants with us of Abraham and Sarah in the New Covenant of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit had already acted by influencing the hearts of those folks who held those straws! The Holy Spirit would come in radical power very soon. Pentecost draws nigh!
-Judie+

Prayer for Today:

1/ The Collect for St. Matthias

Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose Matthias to be numbered in the twelve, preserve your Church from false apostles, keep us steadfast in your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

2/ For Pentecost

O Divine Love, sacred bond uniting the Father and the Son, almighty Spirit, faithful comforter of the afflicted; penetrate the depth of my heart and fill it with the brightness of thy light. Send upon this desert, which is my soul, the sparkling dew of thy grace, and make fruitful that which has long been barren. Let the fiery darts of thy love reach the sanctuary of my soul, and entering therein, set it on fire with so bright a flame that all my weakness, neglect and languor may be consumed in the passion of thy gentle embrace. Come, O come, sweet comforter of desolate souls. Refuge in danger and defender in distress, come with thy gifts of penitence and healing of wounds. Come, strength of the weak. Come, teacher of the humble. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

(attributed to Saint Augustine)

