

MASSES					
Thursday	Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	OLV @ 10:00 am	James, Margaret & Tom Dorion by The Estate		
Saturday	Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	St. Malachy @ 7:00 pm	Nora Somers by Bobbie & Debbie Farnand		
			Rita Weatherdon by Shirley, Rolly & Philip		
Sunday	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	OLV @ 9:00 am	Michel Robitaille by Monique, Ken, Tammy & Karen		
			Evelyn Robitaille by Madeleine & Charles Hough		
			Roberta Farnand by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Romutis		
			James, Margaret & Tom Dorion by The Estate		

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	OLV	ST. MALACHY
Sept. 15-16 - Sunday Collection	\$541.00	\$320.00

### Monthly Prayer Intentions of Our Bishop September, 2018

"Let us pray, that our Diocesan Christian community demonstrate unity in love, according to Our Lord's will; that we achieve more and more areas of alliance between God, us and the world, and that in our midst occur many acts of mutual assistance, solidarity and sharing."

**Question I ask myself:** Great witnesses of faith have responded to God's call. Catechetical Sunday emphasizes several of these witnesses: Martin Luther King, Moses, Madeleine Delbrêl, Saint John, Father Emmett Johns "Pops". Which one is the more telling to me?

#### FATHER ALBANUS REFLECTIONS on the SUNDAY LITURGY

#### **True Greatness is found in Littleness**

On this 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year B, scriptural readings invite us to be great in the sight of God by doing God's will as Jesus did. Jesus surrendered His life in loving service of others and so we are expected to do. The **first reading** from the book of Wisdom tells us how the world often ill-treats those who strive to live justly and to do God's will. It urges us to choose the path of righteousness in spite of painful consequences. In tune with the dispute among the apostles in the Gospel, St. James reminds us that, instead of serving one another, we fight and kill one another. He warns us that selfish ambitions destroy peace and cause conflicts in our families and communities. He therefore advises us to choose the path of righteousness and humble, loving service, which leads to lasting peace. The **Gospel** tells us that true greatness lies in our ability to see and respond to the needs of others and presupposes compassion and sympathy.

The central part of Mark's Gospel presents Jesus attempting to correct the wrong idea which the apostle had of Him. Despite the fact that Peter (last Sunday's Gospel) expressed correctly that "He is the Christ", the Messiah, there was still lurked in the minds a dangerous misunderstanding. Their idea of the Messiah was totally different from the plan of God. There are forces, the subtle influences and pressures exerted by the social environment conditioning His disciples' perception of Him and His mission. There are pernicious influences of the anti-kingdom values of glory, honour, status and power diluting and corrupting their expressions of faith. Thus, Jesus is faced with the task of instructing His disciples and correcting their wrong notions. He therefore repeats three times the announcement of His death and resurrection and adds that His disciples are to follow Him in self-giving if they want to achieve true life. Today's passage reports the second of these auspicious announcements. The disciples could not understand this and curiously "were afraid to ask Him".

The Christianity we profess is also not free from the corrupting influence of our social environment. Like the disciples, we seem to be afraid when Jesus reveals to us His state of "servant" who gives up his life. Jesus' demand frightens us. We prefer to continue with our comfortable Christianity, with just our prayers and attendance at religious rites, rather than stop and reflect on a passage of the Gospel that forces us to change so many of our ideas and habits. We do not like to admit that we have gone wrong and perhaps induced others to wander away from the authentic image of Christ. We seem to be comfortable in the illusion that we are in the right. The Jesus we worship and the faith we profess leave much to be desired. We need to be re-evangelized as we strive to be true to the Gospel of Jesus and the Jesus of the Gospel. It requires courage to put ourselves honestly face to face with Jesus, to listen to Him and to ask Him questions. It seems much more convenient for us to keep our convictions and traditional ideas and perhaps even to attack whoever makes us unease with a different interpretation of the word of God. Like the disciples, we seem to be "afraid" to ask, to search for the truth. And this has serious consequence.

Lack of courage to face the truth of the Word of God leads to unhealthy competition as we see among the apostles: "who among us is the greatest?" We sometimes are also occupied with the question of who will take the "first places" in our families and communities. Jesus deals repeatedly with the problem of first places very clearly: *whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all* (cf MK 9:35; 10:31, 10:44). Within the Christian community we must try to avoid the justification of the existence of classes and right to honorific title and special places. That is why Jesus explicitly condemns it (Lk 22:26). In order to help His disciples understand, he places a child in their midst and says to them "*whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me...*" Those who occupy first places in the communities must abandon all dreams of being great. The Christian community is not a place to gain prestige and subdue others and impose one's will. It is a place where all brings their God-given gifts, to celebrate and live their greatness by serving their brothers and sisters. The presentation of the child by Jesus is meant to tell us that the Christian community must place those who do not count, the poorest, at the center of their interests and preoccupations. **Happy Sunday!** 

#### "Christ, Us, Our Communities, Our Neighbourhoods" 2018-2019 diocesan synodal process

On June 7, English parishes in the dioceses came together to talk about the mission of parishes today. At that meeting, and a similar meeting with the French parishes, the majority of people agreed to undertake a synodal process to trace the future of the Church in this diocese.

This synodal process (another way of saying "walking together") begins this fall. It is a time to look around us and see where we are as a Church. Each parish will be asked to hold a meeting of parishioners in this first stage of this synodal process, sometime in October or November. A series of parish bulletin texts, like this one, have been prepared to help individual parishioners think about some of the questions which will be discussed at these meetings. The first set of questions is about Christ and Us.

## **Christ and Us**

Our parishes should help its members grow in their relationship with Christ. They should help parishioners:

- Recognize the presence and love of Jesus in their lives;
  - Discern the work of the Spirit;
  - Grow in love for the Word of God;
  - Foster the desire to meet the Lord in prayer and liturgy.

Does my parish community help me to grow in my relationship with Christ? Does it help others grow in their faith life? How does it do this well? Or, if it does not do it well, what are some of the barriers to doing this? What are my community's strengths in helping its members grow in their relationship with Christ? What are the weaknesses which create obstacles to doing this well?

We will continue to share reflection questions and information about the synodal process in future bulletin texts. Many blessings as you join the others in the diocese in this time of prayerful reflection!

# OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

<u>**Prayers and Sympathy:**</u> Our prayers and sympathy are with Jean Monaghan's family on the death of her husband, Clifford.

<u>Christmas Tea:</u> Susan and Monique have come forward to convene our Christmas Tea on **Saturday, December 1** from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Cost \$6.00.

### NEED HELP FOR THE FOLLOWING: OR YOU CAN TAKE ON ANY TASK AND FIND YOUR OWN WORKERS.

Entrance:	2 people to collect entrance fee				
Sandwiches:	4-6 people to help make sandwiches on the Friday				
	2-4 people to cut and place on plates day of the Tea				
Wash dishes:	4 people the day of the tea				
Set-up Hall:	On the Friday				
Food Table:	4 people to price and collect day of the tea				
Servers:	5 to serve coffee & tea to our guests				
Bric-Brac table:	2 people to set-up table and price items				
CRAFT table:	Ladies will accept any donations. Please drop them off in the hall <b>prior</b> to the start of the tea.				
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Please call the office and advise Monique the job you would love to handle.