



Tri-Parish News

Weekday and Weekend Masses have been cancelled until further notice.

*The Roman Catholic
Communities of*

**Immaculate Conception,
Heatherton**

**St. Andrew,
St. Andrew's**

**Ste. Croix,
Pomquet**

**22nd of March 2020
4th Sunday of Lent**

Contact Information

Parish Office

Phone: 902-386-2810

Fax: 902-386-2183

Box 24, Heatherton
42 Summerside Road,
Heatherton, BOH 1R0

Monday to Fridays

9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Emails

3catholic@gmail.com
(this is for the parish office)

Fr. Andrew Gillies

902-863-4846

fr.gillies@yahoo.ca

(this is for private e-mails)

Deacon Art Riley

902-870-6379

rileyryn@hotmail.com

Pat MacLean

pat3catholic@gmail.com

Jolene Chisholm

jolene3catholic@gmail.com

Website

www.triparishgrouping.ca

Facebook

Tri-Parish of Heatherton, Pomquet
and St. Andrew's

Baptisms

By appointment,
please phone Fr. Andrew

Marriages

Please call Fr. Andrew at least
12 months in advance to ensure the
marriage course is arranged

Sacrament of Reconciliation

15 minutes before and after
weekday Masses or by
appointment

Mass Intentions

Contact the parish office
to request a Mass offering

Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Antigonish

168 Hawthorne Street, P.O. Box 1330

Antigonish, NS B2G 2L7

Chancery 902-863-3335; Residence 902-863-1557

E-mail: bishopkirkpatrick@dioceseofantigonish.ca

March 17, 2020

My dear people,

In facing the most serious health concerns of recent memory we are indeed living in troubled times but "Do not be afraid". We are not dealing with an unexpected tsunami but rather more with the rising waters of the coronavirus which threaten to overwhelm us and our well being if we do not take appropriate measures. We need to flatten the wave and help slow the spread of this coronavirus called Covid-19. If we have been following the news, we know the situation is very fluid with different rules across the country on different timetables. There have been a patchwork of policies and restrictions which seem to be changing on a daily basis with so many people looking for direction and reassurance. What are we to do amid this turmoil?

We are all concerned about the most vulnerable, given their age and health concerns and this includes our clergy. The medical advice we receive is to avoid gathering in large groups. We do not want to overwhelm our health care system and so we must take all pre-cautions necessary. We will follow the directives and guidelines of Nova Scotia Chief Medical Officer of Health. We will heed all official advisories, including the latest guidance from federal and provincial governments.

For this reason, as Diocesan Bishop, after having consulted our Council of Priests and College of Consultors and the Bishops of Atlantic Canada, **I am directing that all Sunday and Weekday Masses be cancelled effective immediately until further notice.** We cannot put a time frame on when the situation will improve.

I ask each Pastor to celebrate privately Sunday Mass for intentions of their people. I hereby dispense the faithful from the obligation to participate in the Sunday Mass until we are able to again assemble for the Lord's Day in accord with directives from our health officials. Daily televised Mass is offered as an alternative, as the faithful gather to pray in their homes. Particular care should be given to ensure that the vulnerable are not alone. Parishes may explore creative ways to connect with the vulnerable through phone calls and visits where appropriate.

I do not believe it is prudent to keep our churches open since visitation by unknown people especially the ill and the vulnerable may also cause unnecessary risk of exposure since the churches are not cleaned daily. All parish and diocesan meetings, events, celebrations, catechetical formation programmes and any other activities in the coming weeks should be cancelled until further notice.

In compliance with federal and provincial health directives regarding the size of the crowd and personal distance between individuals, I direct the following:

- Baptisms may be celebrated privately with just immediate family members present.
- Weddings may be celebrated privately outside of Mass with just immediate family members present.
- Funerals may be celebrated privately outside of Mass with just immediate family members present. There should be no public receptions permitted at the church during this time.
- Mindful of good hygiene and hand washing, pastors are encouraged to reach out to the sick and elderly to ensure they receive the Sacrament of the Sick and pastoral care as needed.
- The Sacrament of Penance may be celebrated at any time as scheduled or when the pastor is available.
- Later on, we will address the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Pastors.

We continue to pray together for those affected by this coronavirus as well as all healthcare providers, caregivers and researchers. We pray especially to St. Joseph who is the patron saint and protector of the universal Church and the principal patron saint of Canada.

Life will be different for a while from the way we live and especially not being able to worship in our churches, such challenging days actually brings out the best in people. We will weather this storm through our common prayer and by working together. "Keep Calm and Carry On."

(Most Rev.) Wayne Kirkpatrick
Bishop of Antigonish



From 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, 20 March at St. Andrew's Church and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 25 March at Immaculate Conception Church in Heatherton, there will be an opportunity for individual confession. Please use the side door of the Church and ensure social distancing of two metres. Future times will be posted on our Facebook page, "Tri-Parish of Heatherton, Pomquet and St. Andrew's"

Baby Bottle Campaign: Thank you very much to those of you who took bottles and to those of you who have already returned them. We are now half way through our Lenten journey, so please remember to do your alms giving. Since there will be no Masses for the foreseeable future, please hang on to your bottles and return them once Masses resume. The Faith, Fun and Friendship organizers thank you. Signed, the *Monsignor Hugh Macpherson Knights of Columbus*

You are asked to please hang on to your church contribution envelopes during this time.

PLEASE NOTE: The Tri-Parish Office is still open, with reduced hours, but will be closed to the public until further notice. If you need to contact the office, please phone us at 902-386-2810, email 3catholic@gmail.com (individual work emails located on the side left panel of the bulletin) or check out our Facebook page at "Tri-Parish of Heatherton, Pomquet and St. Andrew's".

~ Immaculate Conception Parish ~

Thank you for your support: Regular = \$717.00 Loose = \$37.90 Priest's Pension Fund = \$50.00

~ St. Andrew Parish News ~

There are two men's fur hats at the back of the church at St. Andrew's. One is dark grey with black gloves the other is light brown and tan. They were left after one of the funerals. If these are yours or you know someone who is missing them, please phone 902-863-4573 and we can get them.

Thank you for your support: the collection amounts from 15 March will be announced in a future bulletin

~ Ste. Croix Parish News ~

Thank you for your support: Regular = \$573.00 Loose = \$23.25 Social Action = \$5.00
Priest's Pension Fund = \$10.00 Cemetery = \$75.00 Rent = \$800.00 (Pomquet Fire & Emergency)

Diocesan News

Join Worldwide Marriage Encounter this spring for a weekend of meaning, rediscovery and love for husbands and wives. June 5 – 7, 2020 Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Monastery, Nova Scotia (also from April 3-5 Our Lady of Hope Renewal Center Cavendish, PEI). For information, email renewmarriage@gmail.com or text or call 902-314-8541. Application forms are located near the bulletins if you are interested in going.

Eucharistic Congress 2020, 12 – 14 June, Membertou, Sydney: In September, 2019, following the celebration to end our amazing 175th Anniversary year, Archbishop Dunn announced, for the diocese, a focus on the Eucharist culminating with a Eucharistic Congress. For the next few months leading up to the Congress, the Eucharistic Congress Planning Committee has asked to reserve this space in our bulletin to inform us of the ins and outs of what this all means for each of us.

Community News

I would like to inform all residents of district 7, that all activities at the Heatherton Community Centre are suspended until further notice. This decision was made with the endorsement of all community centre board members. It is unfortunate, but a necessary step to help prevent further transmission of the coronavirus and to ensure the health & safety of our patrons. Be safe and thank you for your understanding. Signed, Malcolm MacKinnon, Chairman, HDCWA

Unfortunately the Antigonish Winter Market is on hold until further notice. We ask that you please keep checking our Facebook page for more information on when we will reopen. We wish to thank our loyal customers who have been so good to support this market and especially wish to thank our talented and dedicated vendors & musicians who have participated so far this season .. Jolene and Sandra

~ Notice to all parishioners to please remember your parish in your estate planning ~