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Parish Office: 705-789-2348

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website: maryassumptionparish.com

St. Vincent de Paul Help Hotline / 705-789-0008
St Mary's Elementary School / 705-789-6841



Is Conflict Inevitable, Is Conflict Necessary?

Let us look at the word conflict. In general, it refers to some form of friction, disagreement, or discord that arises over or against others. It is when the beliefs or actions of one or more members are either resisted by or considered unacceptable to one or more members within that same group, or with another group. We can all agree that this happens on a daily basis, but does that make it inevitable: certain to happen making it unavoidable? There are some things in this life that fit that bill, death for one. But it does not follow that in all cases, that just because something happens readily and often, that it is inevitable. I would like us to consider that conflict is neither inevitable, nor is it necessary. I base this preposition on the example and teachings of Jesus.

with every choice, consequences.

Referring back to the definition of conflict, we naturally assume that this fighting with or against another, is with someone outside of oneself. What Jesus would teach us is that this fighting with or against another, first arises always within ourselves. All people simply desire to be recognized and allowed to be, to live in this world. The challenge, or problem that arises interiorly (conflict), is when we choose to abide by the criteria and definitions that others wish to impose upon us. We know it is not who we are, but for the sake of fitting in, avoiding ridicule or so as to maintain "peace" (the status quo), we acquiesce. The result is the fomenting of frustration and anger that becomes misplaced and misdirected outwardly. When we do not acknowledge what is happening within, the consequences for the self and others can be quite destructive. But this process is not inevitable, any more than the ensuing conflict. All conflict has a place of origin and it is within the self.

From the Latin, conflict could mean two things: to be struck together (fighting with or against someone) or to be in a contest with another (Webster's Dictionary). This definition explains what it looks like and how it plays itself out, but it does not consider whether it is inevitable. For something to be inevitable, regardless of my actions or efforts, the end result has already been predetermined, and it is fated to happen. Again, this would be death. I think we would be hard pressed to come up with another example in life that would be considered inevitable, because only death is inescapable; it is a matter of when, where and how. The confusion arises when someone might suggest that the end result of a certain situation (a conflict) was inevitable, because of what had preceded it. But this is not in fact inevitability, this is simply the consequences of certain choices having been made. Conflict does not simply happen, it is constructed. Perhaps not always mindfully or intentionally, but it is willed. I may attempt to excuse my culpability for my actions by saying I had no choice. If however we were honest with ourselves, we would acknowledge that there are always choices to be made, and

When Jesus said, "do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world but a sword", he was no more saying that conflict was inevitable than it being necessary. Rather, the sword is the conscious choice that we can each make to interiorly reflect upon who we are. This sword is an illuminating and inescapable truth of who we are, and is in no way determined by an external force. It is inherently one with us. To the degree that we allow ourselves to observe our truest self and live accordingly, conflict with the other would not exist. No longer fighting against who we are, we simply are. In turn, we do not have to prove ourselves or be in competition with others, because we no longer have anything to prove. In that moment all external definitions fall away and we become aware of a connection with infinite possibilities that has always existed. Conflict ends, Exploration begins. *pab*

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Parish Pastoral Team

Alison Coort / Office Administrator - /office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Rosie Vandenberg / Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) - LPA@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Marguerite Goodfellow / Parish Nurse - office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Judith Gottschalk / Ministry Rep (contact the parish office)
Jan Sirek / Deacon - office@stmaryshuntsville.ca
Fr. Paul Hogan / Pastor - Frpaulhogan@peterboroughdiocese.org

"...Our challenge as Christians is not to try to convert people around us to our way of belief but to love them, to be ourselves living incarnations of what we believe, to live what we believe and to love what we believe."

John Main

**Fifth Sunday
Of Easter
May 15, 2022**

**Mass Schedule Week of
May 16th - 22nd**

Monday, May 16th/ 9:00AM
SI For World Peace

Tuesday, May 17th/ 12noon
SI For the People of the Parish

**Wednesday, May 18th /
11:00AM Exposition & Adoration
12Noon - SI Anna Marie Ertler**

Thursday, May 19th/ 9:00AM
SI Peace Among People

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 21st/4:00 PM
+Jane Maillott

Sunday, May 22nd / 9:00AM
SI Spiritual Motherhood of Priests and
their Priest Sons

Sunday, May 22nd/ 11:00AM
For the People of the Parish

*Let us join our prayers with those who have died
especially Pia Ray and for those who have asked
for our prayers ...*

Jaymie Ward, Peter & Phillip Tomkin, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Eleanor Wolfe, Robert Foley, Angela & Stephanie Braithwaite, Ruth Anne Foley, Pam & Don Mackenzie, Joe Hanrath, Bill Weber, Ron & Margaret Smith, John Dunbar, Verna Simioni, Connie Gregory, Sharon Boivin, Terry Jordan, John Schreurs, Barb Ataman, Timothy Pelyk, Irene Downey, Sharron Purdy, Doris Lane, Mike Berardi, Marion Majkot, Esther Phillips, Kirsten MacDonald, Joan Ranson, Peter Poustie, Merle Jordan, Evan Maroney, Sheila Bruce & Fr. Andrew Broda.



“The real test of non-violence lies in its being brought in contact with those who have contempt for it” / MK Gandhi
“The first thing to be disturbed by our commitment to non-violence will not be the system but our own lives” / James Douglas

A New Commandment / Love One Another

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives his disciples (all of us, potentially) a new commandment. If it were not for the context in which he presents this commandment, it would be overlooked as a good will gesture or sentiment of good will. But it is precisely the context in which these three words are offered, makes them perhaps some of the most challenging words he left us.

This new commandment, to love one another as he had loved them, were spoken on the night that he was about to be betrayed by one of his own, denied by one of his most trusted, and abandoned by the rest of his inner circle. Only later to be tortured and to be shamelessly executed. They were not said in the company of adoring fans or in the absence of conflict or crisis. They were spoken in the face of adversity, not as a defense or as a plea for leniency. Rather, as a genuine demonstration of who Jesus was, his true nature, what he valued, and what he was willing to live for as much as to die for. He commands us to love one another, but it is within the context of the manner in which he loved us first.

The key to appreciating this new commandment is a matter of loving as Jesus loves. There is one small problem: our definition of love. There are some things that Jesus said and did that we might not consider “loving” but this may be more about us than it is about Jesus. It is not about collating all the examples of when and how Jesus showed love to others, as we see it, but to take the whole of each of the gospels as exemplifying Jesus’s love, start to finish. Furthermore, it is not a matter of defining or quantifying Jesus’ love. Rather, it becomes clear that there are no exceptions or conditions that excuse one from loving another, just as Jesus did not excuse himself. Perhaps the reason for this is that it is not a matter of showing love to another, but it is a matter of being love, in and of itself. We become love. If this is the case, then every encounter we have with others, we embrace as love. This is not an emotion but is a state of being, most akin to God. Perhaps, to love one another as Jesus loved us, is less of a commandment, but is the actualization of who we are and have always been: we are love. *pah*

Parish Group Meetings /

Choir Practice: Wednesdays / 6PM / Church
SVDP Food Drive Tuesday, May 17th, 9:30AM—12Noon
K. of C. Meeting Thursday, May 26th, 7PM - Parish Hall

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The members of St. Vincent de Paul Society in our parish thank you for your continued donations to the Food Bank.
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Parish Pastoral News

Sunday May 15, 2022

Altar Servers / To any child who has received Communion, and would like to be an Altar Server, please contact the office. It would be great to have you helping out during the mass in the role of an Altar Server.

Readers and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion / Perhaps you might wish to consider one of these ministries, especially if you are not presently involved or you are new to the parish. Interested? For more information, please contact the office (see cover of bulletin) or speak with Fr. Paul directly.

St. Mary’s Lending Library / It has been carefully organized with good spiritual reading. You can take the book (s) home with you. When you are finished, please return them to the library. Thank you and enjoy.

St. Vincent de Paul Request / We are immensely grateful for your continuing support of this ministry. Your generosity allows us to do our loving ministry. At this time we are in need of more volunteers to help us out. If you are at all interested please contact either Al Cormier or Mike O’Mara, in person or call 705-789-0008. Thank you!

Parish Nurse News / The Thursday Clinic is available for walk in sessions. Drop by and get your BP checked, your medication reviewed or just to chat. I am available after Mass every Thursday for as long as it takes. I have also started visiting those who are housebound or have recently been hospitalized. If you know of someone who would like a Nursing visit, please let me know / *Marguerite Goodfellow, RN Parish Nurse*

Children’s Liturgy / As we come out of COVID time, we are seeing new faces in our parish. It would be great to get our Children’s Teaching Time going again, but this requires your help. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Rosi through her email. It is a great way to pass on your faith to these little ones. Thank you

The Great Outdoors / On behalf of the parishioners of St. Mary’s, I wish to thank Robert Lacroix for bringing back our church lawns to such a beautiful state. He called upon a good number of Knights of Columbus who worked with him to rejuvenate the lawns. I ask that for the next few weeks we refrain from walking on the seeded lawns. Thank you.

First Communion Mass / A number of children in our parish celebrated the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time this past Sunday, May 8th. I wish to thank the 9:00AM choir and Belinda Moretto for providing music for the mass, along with those who assisted as Ushers. A representative from the Knights of Columbus and CWL graciously provided gifts for the children to assist them in their prayer lives. I also wish to thank the teachers of St. Mary’s who so tirelessly helped to prepare the children for the Sacrament, both at school and here in the parish. And finally, I wish to thank the parents who have given an example of faith to their children. Their example and loving support is crucial to their continued faith development. May we all continue to pray for their good and wellbeing. Peace and thank you.

We wish to thank Deacon Jan for the inspiring and heart felt internment service for Rebecca Muzzi. A special thank you to Kevin and Marianne Hagerman and Edyta Kucherenko for providing the lunch, Belinda Moretto & June Anne Crawford for the choir, and Ben Boivin, Al Kudryk & Charles Rosario for clean up. We couldn’t have done it without you. Sam Muzzi, Janine Wright & Diana Snowden

Next Weekend Ministry Schedule - May 21/22, 2022

	4:00PM Mass	9:00AM Mass	11:00AM Mass
Readers	Michelle Haskin	Judith Gottschalk	John & Jean MacInnis
EMC	Alison Coort	Al Cormier	
Ushers	Walter Grys Marguerite Goodfellow Ben Boivin Tracy Shisko	Al Kudryk Mary Kudryk Craig Martin Walter Grys	Hugh Knox Bob Lacroix Linda Lacroix
Counters	Tuesday May 24th	Wanda Roberts & Bob Moore	

“Nonviolence is the constant awareness of the dignity and the humanity of oneself and others; it seeks truth and justice; it renounces violence both in method and in attitude; it is a courageous acceptance of active love and goodwill as the instrument with which to overcome evil and transform both oneself and to others. It is the willingness to undergo suffering rather than inflict it. It excludes retaliation and flight”
Wally Nelson

**Weekend Offertory /
May 7th/8th
\$4,546.00**

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