

August 16th, 2026: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew’s Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples’ confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew’s entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today’s Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus’ exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, “dog.” But the woman cleverly turns Jesus’ insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus’ unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today’s Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew’s text we can hear this early Christian community’s struggle to understand how God’s selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel’s rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles’ acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God’s abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

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August 16th, 2026
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: **Fr. Lee Lainey**

Office Administrator: **Roseann Janes**

Office Hours: **Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8
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curlingparish@hotmail.com

www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

e-transfers:
sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com
Password "Church"

Note: include your envelope #
Pre-authorized debit can be arranged with your own bank – call us for our banking info.

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Friday 10:00a.m.

BAD WEATHER – please call the office to verify if mass is cancelled & office closed.

Lohnes Complex*

Reconciliation:

Marriages:

Baptisms:

Family Connections:

St. Vincent de Paul:

First Friday of each month at 2pm. ***Sept. to June**

Before Mass or by request.

Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.

To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS
August 8 & 9, 2026

Regular Sunday	1455.00
Loose Offering	74.00
Envelope Cost Contribution	10.00
Building Fund	20.00
New Years Day	10.00
Votive Candles	15.00
Living with Christ	13.00
Mass Stipends	10.00
Pope's Pastoral Works	20.00

MASS INTENTIONS
Aug. 18 - 23, 2026

Aug. 18 – Tues.	The Late Val O'Brien
Aug. 19 – Wed.	The Late Evelyn Hann
Aug. 22 - Sat.	The Late Michael Basha
Aug. 23 - Sun.	The Late Michael Buckle

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Aug. 15 – Saturday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Marie Pennell	Joe Byrne
Aug. 16 – Sunday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Dan Park	Eileen Moore
Communion to the Sick - M.Pennell/E.Carew	

NEW DIOCESAN DIRECTOR
– EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION:

Angela Dolomount is now the new Diocesan Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation. She can be reached at our Diocesan Office: (709) 639-7073.

COUNTERS LIST & VOLUNTEERS:

The counters list is available at the back of the church on the bulletin board for anyone needing to know when they count next. You can also get a copy from the parish office.

Are you interested in volunteering your time to do the counting. You would count once every 6 weeks and takes about 2 hours of your time, just contact the office and let us know. Thank you.

COLLEGE LIFE - MASS:

From Bishop Bart van Roijen:

We would like all students, and parents of students, throughout the diocese, know that there is a **Catholic presence at Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook. Mass** is celebrated **every second Tuesday** of the month at **11:30 a.m.** in the multi-faith room, **beginning on Tuesday, October 13th**, followed by a faith discussion over lunch. We also plan to have other activities throughout the year. This is a great way to connect with new friends, remain grounded in your faith and be involved. Please **look for our booth**, manned by some of our students, at the **“Get Involved Fair” on September 16th** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE –
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN VENEZUELA:

In June twin earthquakes hit Venezuela. Which caused widespread damage across much of the country. To date our parishioners **have donated \$430** to this worthwhile cause. Anyone still wishing **to contribute** to the relief efforts can do so by marking an envelope: “Venezuela Earthquake Relief” (add your envelope #) and put it in the weekend collection. Make cheques payable to Sacred Heart Parish, so that we can send all donations together in one lump sum for this worthy cause.

SEPTEMBER DANCE:

Our fundraising dance is **Friday, September 11th, 2026 (doors open at 8pm**, music starts at 9pm) at the Royal Canadian Legion, **\$15.00 advance tickets** and \$20.00 at the door (only 200 tickets available). **Midnight Crescent** will be playing this event, and it is open to 19 years of age and up. All proceeds go towards the church's new heating system. **Tickets available** at the parish office (709-785-5025) or from Elizabeth Carew at 709-660-3509 or Marie Pennell at 709-388-5090 or marie.pennell.mp@gmail.com

WALK-A-THON: September 19th, 2026:

Our walk-a-thon will take place on **Saturday, 10:30 a.m., September 19th, 2026.**

We will be walking along the trails in Curling from the church parking lot.

There is a **registration form** at the back of the church for those interested in participating. Once you sign-up please take a sponsor sheet. Come sign up for this walk in support of our parish. Remember we can issue a tax receipt for anyone who sponsors you.

DIOCESAN OFFICE MOVING:

The Diocese is in the process of renovating the old parish office space and housekeeper's suite at the Cathedral Residence in order to move its offices in the early Fall. Once renovations are complete, the move will centralize both the parish and diocesan offices in one convenient and accessible location, consolidate expenses and maximize our use of space, and create a stronger bond between the Bishop and the Cathedral Parish.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The next meeting of Parish Council will be **Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 6:30pm** in the church meeting room.

MAINTENANCE – CHURCH/HOUSE & GROUNDS:

As our maintenance person has recently retired, we are now **in need of volunteers** to step forward to maintain the church, house and grounds. This is mainly regular maintenance such as mowing, vacuuming, cleaning of the church, etc... We only need someone about 30 hours a month. Experience is preferred but someone will be available to train you if required. If you know of anybody or are interested yourself, **please let Father Lainey** know or **contact the office** and leave a message.

GRAND IN THE HAND:

Knights of Columbus are once again selling tickets on a grand in your hand. Draw date is **September 8th, 2026** with only **200 tickets at \$10 each**. Please contact Garry at 709-660-6316 or see any member of the Knights of Columbus.

REFLECTION:

An Irish Wish

God be good to you in all your days,
God be kind to you in all your ways.

God give strength to you when crosses lean,
God send light to you, the clouds between.

God give peace to you in times of strife,
God bless everything that fills your life.

God send joy to you when grief is o'er,
God make way for you at Heaven's door.

(Brian O'Higgins)

*Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year A,
Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.272*