

## Pastor's Message



### Love and Peace!

Today's Gospel passage reminds us that Christian discipleship demands self-control ("Deny yourself"), the willingness to

suffer ("take up your cross"), the readiness to follow Jesus by obeying his commandment of love, and generosity in surrendering our lives to God ("to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God" (Romans 12:1).

In the district of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus reveals the direction that he was taking to fulfill His mission and tells his disciples that "he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised" (Mt 16:21). When Peter objects to this extremely painful prediction, Jesus rebukes him sharply: "Get behind me, Satan! ... you are setting your mind not on Divine things but on human things." He then tells his disciples: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (16:24-25). There is an ancient legend about Peter, which became the basis for a famous novel and motion picture - "Quo vadis, Domine". At the time of the great persecution under Nero, the Christians of Rome told Peter to leave. "You're too valuable," they said. "Get out of town! Find your safety! Go to another place and preach the Gospel."

Peter hastily hurried out of town as fast as he could. But as he hurried along the Appian Way, away from the Eternal City, he was met by Christ, going toward the city. Peter said to him in Latin, "Quo vadis, Domine?" "Where are you going, Lord?" To which Jesus replied, "Back to Rome, to be crucified with my people. Where are you going, Peter?" Peter's eyes filled with tears of remorse, as he turned and walked back to Rome, where, according to tradition, he was crucified head downward, feeling that he was not worthy to die in the same manner as had his Lord.

Jesus' question to Peter comes to us also. "Where are you going?" Are we going with Christ, or away from him and from his cross? That's the really important question. It doesn't matter how far we have traveled. What does matter is the direction in which we are going.

Today's readings explain how we should practice true, dynamic Christian discipleship. Jeremiah, in the first reading, is certainly a prototype of the suffering Christ. The prophet Jeremiah tells us in very poetic language that even when he desires to abandon his calling from God to speak God's word to His people — because of the persecution he has endured and ....

... *For the complete homily, please visit our website at:-*  
<http://strichardsjamaica.com/information/homily>

## September Birthdays!

Erica	Bancroft-Wilson
Dannielle	Bardowell
Tanza	Bowen
Peter	Brammer
Katherine	Brown-Thompson
Carlton	Carey
Marcia	Chin-See
Paulette	Duncan
Nicholas	Dunn
Paul	Dunn
Gregory	Dunn
Alex	Fraser
Sheryl	Garriques-Lloyd
Abrianna	Gayle
Kimani	Gilchrist
Ballen	Gonzales
Zayna	Goodison
Christina	Grant
Sandra	Hart
Britanny	Hart
James	Ho-On
Khloe	Lee
Gary	Lewis
Rosemarie	McHugh-Thomas
Ralston	McKenzie
Peggy	Parkes
Debbie-Ann	Pryce-Hoo Fung
Donovan	Reid
Michelle	Robinson-Lewis
Marcele	Sawyers
Beryl	Whiteman

Happy anniversary to Deacon Lloyd and Lois Saunders celebrating xx married years

## Virtual Conference

The International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) will host a Virtual Conference which is scheduled between 28<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

Persons who are interested should submit their names to Mrs. Carine Bennett at the Chancery (876 927 9915)

The conference registration form is available from the St. Richard's rectory.

## CHURCH COUNCIL Elections

Preparations for Church Council elections are under way.

Nominations will be accepted on **October 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**.

Voting is scheduled at the end of our Liturgical calendar year on **November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020**.

Details on how parishioners can include their ballots to be counted on Election day will be published by September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Parishioners are encouraged to consider suitable nominees for election to the Council. All confirmed and practising Roman Catholics of the Parish, who have passed their twenty-first (21st) birthday, are eligible for election to the Church Council.

## Family Life Commission: Pre-Cana Sessions

The next scheduled Pre Cana sessions are September 11, 12 and 13, 2020; October 30 and 31; November 1, 2020 and November 27, 28 and 29, 2020.

Parishioners with weddings slated for January through to April 2021 are encouraged to apply for one of these sessions as the first Pre Cana of a new calendar year is usually scheduled for the first weekend in March

## Laity Training Programme

St. Michael's Theological College Invites you to participate in a 14 week Hebrew Scripture/ Old Testament course on Tuesday September 8, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 via the Zoom platform  
Persons continuing the course, it will begin Systematic Theology on Wednesday September 9 at 10:00 am or Thursday September 10 at 6:00 pm via the **Zoom** platform.

Please contact St. Michael's at 876-977-4206 or email [stmtc2909@gmail.com](mailto:stmtc2909@gmail.com)

### MASS PROTOCOLS

The government is expected to announce tighter restrictions as the country deals with the community spread of Covid-19.  
St. Richard's will operate within protocols consistent with the **government directives** and continue to observe established social distancing. Based on the size of our building, 150 persons can be accommodated, provided they are free of any underlying conditions.

### MASS ATTENDANCE

**SATURDAY MASS - Suspended due to new Curfew Hours**

MORNING MASS – Suspended (You may call Fr. Xavier for special needs)

SUNDAY – Mass begins at St. Richard's at 8:00AM  
and Our Lady of Lourdes at 11:00AM

## This WEEK's SCHEDULE – September 2020

### TUESDAY 8th

- Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting at 6:30pm (via Zoom)

### SUNDAY 13th

- St. Richard's Mass – 8:00AM (Live Streamed)
- Divine Mercy Prayer – 9:45AM – 10AM
- Sunday School – **On Summer Break**
- OLL Mass – 11:00AM

# St Richard of Chichester & Our Lady of Lourdes Communities

St. Richard's

Sunday Mass: 8:00AM

Sunday School: 10:30am – 11:30AM

Adoration: Tuesdays 6:30PM

Prayer Meetings: Tuesdays 7:00PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Sunday Mass: 11:00AM

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Year A

**Ezekiel 33:7-9**

"If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible ..."

**PS 85:9-14**

"O that today you would listen to His voice, harden not your hearts"

**ROM 13:8-10,**

"Love is the answer ..."

**Mt 18:15-20**

"If he listens to you, you have won back your brother"



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