#### **COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!**

The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester for all who are health compromised. No person who has been ill or exposed to someone who is ill should be attending Liturgy.

Anyone who has had recent symptoms of fever, any respiratory symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath), chills, severe fatigue or changes in sense of smell or taste may have been exposed to COVID-19. Testing is encouraged. Please refrain from attending any liturgical service.

#### Liturgy online or on TV...

#### Boston Catholic Television catholictv.org

Sunday Mass from Notre Dame

catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass

Salt & Light TV saltandlighttv.org
Eternal Word Television ewtn.com

#### **COVID VACCINE CONCERNS**

Beware of fake news! There are reports that call into question the moral and ethical validity of Covid-19 vaccines. Do not be misled. **Right click** on the following tab and **open** the hyperlink to read what the Bishops of the Unites States are saying about the moral permissibility of the current Covid-19 vaccines:

Click Here for the Memo

#### **SANCTUARY CANDLES**

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

#### **VIGIL LIGHT**

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn of your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

#### **▼ PARISH TITHING** ▼

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the Parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

April 1, 2021

Rice Bowls

\$ 1,631.50

April 2, 2021

**Holy Land** 

\$ 1,462.48

April 4, 2021

Offertory Easter \$12,420.41 \$ 3,141.00

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
APRIL 11, 2021
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <a href="http://stlukenh.org">http://stlukenh.org</a>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

#### **UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

April 18 Fuel

April 25 No Second Collection

#### **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contribution to the parish for 2020, please **call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.** 

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income				
Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly			

Annual Income	Commitment annually/ weekly	Commitment annually/ weekly	
\$100,000	\$5,000/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <i>\$60</i>	
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <i>\$75</i>	\$2,250/\$45	
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36	
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <i>\$50</i>	\$1,500/\$30	
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24	
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18	
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/\$15	
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/\$9	

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase						
Your Current Offertory Contribution	Offertory 25% 30% 40%					
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00			
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00			
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00			
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00			
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00			
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00			
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00			
\$15.00	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00			
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00			
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00			

#### **▼ PARISH NEWS**



The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of

#### **Mary Walsh**

by Rachel Lanseigne

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week for the Intentions of David Lindstrom by the Brotz Family



#### **VIGIL LIGHT**

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of

#### Angelina Antczak and Joan Burge

by the Burge family

#### **CREMATION & THE CHURCH**

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in cases of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. However, the new document inists that ashes should not be kept in private homes and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted. The instruction also insisted that cremains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the Church entrances.

#### **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels). Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

#### **TAI CHI RETURNS!**

The Parish is once again offering Tai Chi classes on **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and at 7:00 PM**. A minimum of three (3) students per class will be needed to hold the class. Social distancing and all COVID-19 protocols, including masks, are required. Contact the Parish Office to register. Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes are taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups.



#### **BLESSING OF MOTHERS**

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 9, 2021**.

#### **EVICTION & EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

If you or someone you know are facing eviction or need emergency rental assistance, help is available. Please call Catholic Charities at 603-889-9431.

#### **AMAZON SMILE**

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish has received \$117.94 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 21, 2020!

**AmazonSmile.com** is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at <a href="https://www.amazonsmile.com">www.amazonsmile.com</a>. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

#### WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Spring even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Spring months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

#### **▼ WEEKLY CALENDAR ▼**

Tuesday, April 20

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting

**Plaistow** 

Wednesday, April 21
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day

Thursday, April 22

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration

Newton

Saturday, April 24

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Plaistow** 

Sunday, April 25

12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

**Plaistow** 

Because of COVID restrictions, many Parish events and groups are currently cancelled. We will begin more Parish programs, with all precautions, as restrictions ease.

### RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

#### **PRAYER LINE**

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.



## ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area!

Non-perishable food or personal care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to *St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry*. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities. Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.

#### **▼ MASS INTENTIONS ▼**

Saturday, April 17 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

**4:00 PM** Jo Chudzicki by Pat Zakiewicz

**Plaistow** 

Sunday, April 18 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

8:00 AM John and Mary Madore by the Madore family

Newton

10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family

Plaistow

Monday, April 19 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29

8:00 AM Angelina Antczak and Joan Burge

by the Burge family

Newton

Tuesday, April 20 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 7:51—8:1a; Jn 6:30-35

8:00 AM Maria Lafleur by Frank Lafleur

**Plaistow** 

Wednesday, April 21 ~ Anselm, Bishop and Doctor

of the Church

Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40

**6:30 PM** Verna Carbone by the Brotz family

**Plaistow** 

Thursday, April 22 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51

8:00 AM People of the Parish

Newton

Friday, April 23 ~ George, Martyr; Adalbert, Bishop and

<u>Martyr</u>

Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59

No Mass

Saturday, April 24 ~ Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and

Martyr

Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69 (Day)

Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

4:00 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse

by Elaine Kelcourse

Plaistow

Sunday, April 25 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

8:00 AM Jane Taylor by the Madore family

Newton

**10:00 AM** Jack Ronan by the Knights of Columbus,

St. Jude Council #6617

**Plaistow** 



#### **▼ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION**



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 PM of each month. New members are always welcome. We look forward

any questions you may have. Please contact SVdP Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or <a href="mailto:jimmy69180@hotmail.com">jimmy69180@hotmail.com</a> to find out if our meeting is live at the church hall or virtual on ZOOM.) If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315. Visit us on our Facebook page at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pg/SVDPSL">http://www.facebook.com/pg/SVDPSL</a>



#### MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

Did you know that all Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert in the Parish Office for more information and assistance – there are ways in which your situation might be resolved!



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

#### **ADULT CONFIRMATION**

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at

csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

#### **ADORATION**

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Newton - Thursday 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

#### ▶ PARISH DIRECTORY ▶

Parish Office 603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line 603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society 603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry 603-819-4949
Preschool 603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent 603-382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay Cathy Smith Joyce Szapa Jackie Tremblay Val Barczak Parish Council fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net csmith@stluketheevangelist.net jszczapa@stluketheevangelist,net jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net mvmbarczak@comcast.net parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

#### Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ▼

# THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS





Partnering with the American Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus, St. Jude #6617 recently sponsored a blood donation drive. We would like to thank all those who generously donated the gift of life.

44 Pints of blood were collected.

Look for details of our next blood drive

#### <u>CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH OFFERS SUPPORT</u> PROGRAMS IN SPITE OF THE PANDEMIC...

#### Here are some resources:

Catholic Charities continues to offer Adoption and Maternity Services (669-3030), Immigration Legal Services (889-9431), and Mental Health Counseling (some on-line - 669-3030). Our Healthcare Service facilities are located throughout the state (call 669-3030 or see our website for a facility close to you). *Our Place* continues parent education services from pregnancy through the first three years of a child's life (647-2244). *St Charles School* continues to provide academic, social, emotional and behavioral services to children in grades K-8 (332-4768). And *The Food Bank* continues to provide food supplies to most food pantries throughout the state.

You may not be aware that *Liberty House* supports vulnerable veterans with recovery, job placement and wellness programs (669-0761). *Monadnock at Home* supports seniors in the Monadnock area allowing them to stay independent and remain in their homes (371-0809). Our *Caregivers program* lends support to homebound seniors and the disabled in the greater Manchester and Nashua areas (622-4948).



#### **DIOCESAN EASTER SERIES**

The Diocese of Manchester invites all to join in an Easter Series, "The Resurrection and the Church's Mission in the Public Square." This series is offered to help New Hampshire Catholics reflect more deeply on the Easter message and its meaning today for our state, our country, and the whole world. The full series is available in a free-eBook at **catholicnh.org/Easter** that contains brief written offerings and short excerpts from various church writings on the topics that are covered for each week of the Easter Season.

#### THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you all for your generosity in supporting its Easter Lily Fundraiser. It was a complete success as they sold out! This has been an extremely tough year for us all and we so much appreciate your kindness in supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society's good works!

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH**

Your support of Catholic Charities NH has helped create a better path forward for more than 130,700 New Hampshire residents over the past year through emergency assistance, mental health counseling, senior support services, support for homeless veterans, and so much more. As the demand for services – and calls for help – continue to rise, it's because of you that Catholic Charities NH is able to help those facing hardship and crisis build the lives they want to live. Visit <a href="https://www.cc-nh.org/everything">www.cc-nh.org/everything</a> to donate and see your gifts in action.

#### NEW ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Divorce / separation can be an uncomfortable and often misunderstood topic, and for those directly impacted, a painful process with many questions often left unanswered. Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Divorce/Separation: Why me? What can I do?" for those navigating the divorce process or trying to find their way afterward. Participants will learn more about the dynamics of divorce, better understand their options, learn helpful coping strategies, and support others on the same journey. The program will be held via Zoom for six consecutive Wednesdays (at 12:00 Noon) starting April 21. To register, visit <a href="https://www.cc-nh.org/supportgroup">www.cc-nh.org/supportgroup</a> or call 603-752-1325.

# The Gospel at Home

#### This Sunday's Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples and invites them to touch him to see that he is really alive. He calls the disciples to be his witnesses. They have Good News to tell—that love is stronger than death, victory can come from suffering, and life can come from death.

#### **Exploring the Gospel Message**

**Seeds** (Preschool): Your child learned that after rising from the dead, Jesus came to visit his friends. He gave them a message of love and peace. Ask your child to share with you the booklet he or she made in class. Talk about sad feelings and happy feelings. Remember that even the simplest of these chats helps your child grow in faith.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child learned that Jesus visited his friends on that first Easter and gave them the gift of his peace. The class also learned about the importance of being peacemakers. Discuss how your family members can be signs of peace to one another and the importance of offering the Sign of Peace to others at Mass. There may be a place to prominently display your child's peace banner made during the lesson.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This Sunday's Gospel tells us that Jesus is alive and is still with us. Your child also learned how stories help us remember those we love even if they have died. Ask your child to tell the story titled, "Remembering Buddy." Share the ways your family shows faith that Jesus lives in you and that you will live forever with him. Talk with your child about what the Real Presence is. The class studied the Real Presence as a Catholic Faith Word this week.

**Venture** (Grades 4–6): This Sunday's Gospel recounts how two disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Your youngster explored how we celebrate Jesus in the breaking of the bread at Mass. The children also learned how missionaries carried the Good News of the Gospel throughout the world. Discuss how important the celebration of Mass is for your family. Share ways in which your family can spread the message of the Risen Jesus to everyone you meet.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Part of this week's lesson showed how Saint Paul journeyed to spread the Good News from Jerusalem to Rome. The class also learned that during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we remember the events of salvation, we celebrate a sacred meal, we ask for God's help, and we express our hope for the future. Talk together about your family's hopes and dreams for the future. Discuss why being faithful members of the Church should be an important part of that future.

#### **Pray Together**

Eastern Christians have a special way of greeting one another during Easter. One person says, "Christ is risen!" and the other answers, "Truly, he is risen!" or "Indeed, he is risen!" Use this greeting with members of the family throughout this week.

Our patron saint is thinking about electronic giving...



# Why don't you think about it too?

Parish Giving is a simple, secure and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries.

- Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone
- You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend
- Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.
- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <a href="http://stlukenh.org">http://stlukenh.org</a>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.





# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Easter (B) April 18, 2021

# Sharing Our Wounds

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The glorified Jesus is not easy for the apostles to recognize. There is a deep truth here. The Twelve are startled and terrified to see Jesus again. In fact, they even think they are seeing a ghost. Their fear and lack of faith makes it impossible to see him for who he is—their resurrected Savior. Before they can truly see, they need to first accept him and believe.

And how does Jesus prove his identity to them? He shows them his wounds, the signs of his suffering and crucifixion. We often want to hide our wounds. We

#### **Sunday Readings**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from death; of this we are witnesses.

#### 1 John 2:1-5a

Whoever says, "I know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar."

#### Luke 24:35-48

[Jesus] asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. are ashamed of them and afraid of how others will react if they really knew. But Jesus, unashamed, shows his wounds and uses them as signs of who he is.

There is a message for us here. We need to allow our brokenness to find fullness and resurrection in Christ. It is at that point that the love of God is perfected in us. First, we need to acknowledge our wounds and not bury or hide them. Then we need to admit our need for healing. Finally, through prayer, confession, and help from those who love us, we allow Jesus' redemptive love to wash over our wounds and give us renewal, rebirth, and healing.

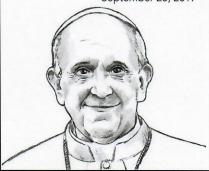
As a result, like Jesus, we will no longer be ashamed of our wounds, but rather we will share them as evidence of the power of Jesus Christ. +

We need to
acknowledge our
wounds and not bury
or hide them. Then
we need to admit our
need for healing.

# A Word from Pope Francis

We know that slander always kills. This "diabolical cancer" that arises from the desire to destroy the reputation of a person also attacks the ecclesial body and seriously damages it when, as a result of malicious interests or to cover up one's own inadequacies, people unite to denigrate someone.

—General Audience, September 25, 2019



#### REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS GRESTIONS KELFECTION

- Is there an area of my heart and life where I need Jesus' healing?
- Am I confident in God's power to raise me up out of my weakness?

# When Is It Time to Forgive?

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

The first time it happened, I was speechless. A mother had come to the rectory. She didn't like the answer she'd gotten from the parish school's principal about the importance of timely tuition payments. When I gave her the same answer, she screamed at me. She called me a pedophile.

I had never been called that before. It's happened a few times since, once by a homeless man and another time by a stranger—and the shock hasn't worn off. Each time, my reaction has been the same. I think of the victims of sexual abuse. I think of

the priests accused, the innocent and the guilty. I think of the Church. And I think about forgiveness.

The book of Genesis says that after Cain killed his brother Abel, God put an indelible mark on him to prevent him from being killed. It seems God either wanted Cain to suffer a long life of shame for his sin or have plenty of time to repent. Maybe it was both. The point is that God gave time to Cain for either to happen.



Indelible marks have been left on the Church for what it did and didn't do to protect children and young people from predator priests.

ethical ministry practices with minors. Notices posted in church vestibules say in bold, black letters, "Report Sexual Abuse." Criminal and civil suits abound. So do shame and repentance—as they should

Indelible marks of

Church for what it did

and didn't do to guard

and young people from

predator priests. Much has happened since the

of Catholic Bishops issued its Charter for the

Protection of Children

& Young People in 2002.

Look at the websites of

dioceses and religious

country. The mark says

Virtus or Praesidium.

Departments for child and youth protection are

everywhere, even in the

Vatican. Standards and

training sessions have

been developed to teach

orders across the

United States Conference

and protect children

sorts have been left on the

Does time heal all wounds? Maybe it's too soon to ask. There's something missing amidst the shame, repentance, diocesan departments, and survivor networks. It's the same thing I'll bet Cain longed for: forgiveness. How long did

Cain live in unforgiveness? Did he ever run home to Adam and Eve and tearfully beg their forgiveness? Did God forgive him? The Book of Genesis says only that time was given to Cain. Maybe that was the mark—that Cain couldn't be forgiven. But I like to think that, in time, he was.

Can the Church, that through the centuries forgave millions, ever be forgiven for its role in the sexual abuse of minors? What will it take? For how long will the clerical collar be a mark of shame and repentance? I remember a time not long ago when it was the mark of forgiveness.

There's still time for repentance and shame—and forgiveness. +



Risen Lord, your resurrection revealed to the world the hope and promise of new life. Help me to be a faithful, hopeful, loving presence to all people.

From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

#### WEEKDAY READINGS

April 19-24

Monday, Easter Weekday: Acts 6:8–15 / Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 7:51—8:1a / Jn 6:30–35

Wednesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 8:1b-8 / Jn 6:35-40 Thursday, Easter Weekday: Acts 8:26–40 / Jn 6:44–51

Friday, Easter Weekday: Acts 9:1–20 / Jn 6:52–59

Saturday, Easter Weekday: Acts 9:31–42 / Jn 6:60–69



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