

Our Prayers

Let us pray for Pope Francis and our bishops that they can find ways to preserve what is essential and still welcome all into the house of faith
we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for our diocese as we set out on the path of renewal that we will be guided by the spirit in all we do and say
we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for young people that they will find in our house a warm welcome for all their questioning and doubts
we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for those whose lives are broken by hunger or war or unemployment that they will see in the church a caring place to find peace
we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for the sick... for the aged... for those limited by disability that we will welcome all with compassion
we pray to the Lord

For our own personal intentions...

Next gathering Monday January 22 at 10:15

Zacchaeus the first seeker...

Monday, November 20, 2023

A warm welcome to everybody!

ENLARGE THE TENT

"Removing our sandals before the Sacred Ground of the Other"

The Art of Accompaniment Part Two with Fr. Tim Boyle. Sessions will be livestreamed at 10:30 am, followed by Mass at 11:15 am. Third Monday of the month.

ST. MARTHA'S, LETBRIDGE
● LIVE AT STMARTHASPARISH.CA

**MONDAY,
NOV 20 AT
10:30 AM**

*What unbelievers
can teach us about
the mystery of God*

**MONDAY,
JAN 22 AT
10:30 AM**

*Zacchaeus... the first
of many seekers...
and why they don't want to join*

What unbelievers can teach us about the mystery of God

Checking in...

Do you know someone in your own family who calls themselves a non-believer or atheist?

Have you had moments or times in your life when you have struggled with faith?

Do you think our church has responded well to individuals who have serious doubts?

Opening prayer...

How did we get here?

Looking for God in all the wrong places...

New discoveries shake the foundations...

An old model above and below is questioned.

Religion left to sphere private opinion... science given monopoly on external world

Church slow to respond to dramatic changes

Secular humanism is prodigal son or unwanted child

New atheism... Dawkins. Proposed some rational certainties... then challenged claim to existence of God...

Atheism become popular...

Different kinds of atheists... totalitarian... anti-clerical... indifferent...

Passionate atheist... passionate protester

All of us pilgrims wrestling justice and truth...

Culture wars. Two modern problems. Consumer... competition

Problem vision of world as static... isolated... lifeless produce some clarity

Insist on only one model of God. God = object...

Fail to grasp immensity... God is not object

Look at world as interconnected. Never graspable. See ourselves as part of whole...

God is too close... God is light... cannot see light... no one has seen God...

Better model is anatheism... a return to faith... faith is a leap... a choice needs to be made every day.

Modern world sees God as too close... hidden... not evident...

Have to give up some certainties... like Abraham.

New atheism failed... it placed too much confidence in science.

Paul in Athens. Altar to an unknown god... now focus on mystery... mystery defies explanation... cannot be grasped... wait patiently at the door... we live in broken world filled with problems... life not a problem... but mystery...

Faith is journey... atheists are only impatient... we need to persevere in doubt.

Experience God as silence within... Good Friday eclipse of sun...

Patron saint... St Therese of Avila. Doctor of church

"I no longer believe in eternal life... I feel that there is nothing beyond this mortal life..."

God awaits us not in the heights which we prefer but in the deep fertile valley of disbelief...

St Therese... her mission is not to draw unbelievers back into church. But to draw church to broaden her heart to include experience of darkness.

The existential truth of atheism... this experience of pain...of silence is part of treasure house of faith... only faith that welcomes even doubt is credible...