

Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor
His Excellency, Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland



Notes from Fr. Nick

Read Any Good Books Lately?

This week my column is about pure escapist fiction. It’s time to read some novels that can take our minds off our (and the world’s) problems for the moment. Perhaps reading a few good books will give us some new perspectives to face the challenges at hand.

Julie Clark’s *The Last Flight* is great summer reading; probably the best novel I’ve read this year. Two women, each on the run, meet — apparently by accident — at Kennedy Airport, and exchange plane tickets and identities.

For me, part of the fun was that most of the action takes place in our neighborhood of Berkeley — something I did not know when I picked up the book. It was great to have a feel for where they traveled, ate, shopped, and took refuge. But even if you don’t know the locale, this book is a real page-turner.

Clark’s ability to put you inside the stressed-out heads of these women is masterful. My only minor criticism of the book is that all the women are good and almost all the men are bad. Other than that, the *veritas* is almost complete.

Anne Lamont is always a joy to read, although I think I prefer her spiritual writing. *Blue Shoe* is set in Marin County, and is the story of a recently-divorced thirty-something making her way on her own. While the story borders on soap opera, Lamont’s descriptive prose makes up for that lack. Once again, familiar venues lend a connection to the plotline.

Fr. Paul Janowiak, S.J., suggested that I read *Still Life* by **Louise Penny**. It’s a murder mystery, this time set in southern Québec. It’s the first in a series featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of *Sûreté du Québec*. Inspector Gamache is no antihero; he is a gentleman of the first order, yet a consummate professional. He goes out of his way to be respectful and a role model.

Penny’s prose is denser than that of the first two books, but it is like eating a well-crafted cheesecake — each bite savored. An example:

In the country death comes, uninvited, during the day. It takes fishermen in the longboats, it grabs children by the ankles as they swim. In winter it calls them down a slope too steep for their budding skills, and crosses their skis at the tips. It waits along the shore where snow met ice not long ago but now unseen by sparkling eyes, a little water touches the shore, and the skater makes a circle slightly larger than intended. Death stands in the woods with a bow and arrow at dawn and dusk. And it tugs cars off the road in broad daylight, the tires spinning furiously on ice or snow or bright autumn leaves.

The author clarified some confusion outsiders might have about the conflict in Québec. One of characters states: « *Anglophones are concerned with individual rights, while Francophones are interested in collective rights; particularly, preservation of their culture on a continent where English is the lingua franca.* » As summer spins into autumn, this series of books might be a good way to transition from one season to the next.

Vigil Mass in the Dominican Garden!

Fr. Nick would like to start holding one Mass a week outdoors in the Dominican Garden. Services are scheduled to begin on **Saturday, September 19th** in the late afternoon (the Vigil Mass for Sunday). If you would like to help set up for the service, please let Norah know of your availability.

The Livestream Mass will continue to be broadcast Sunday mornings on Facebook.

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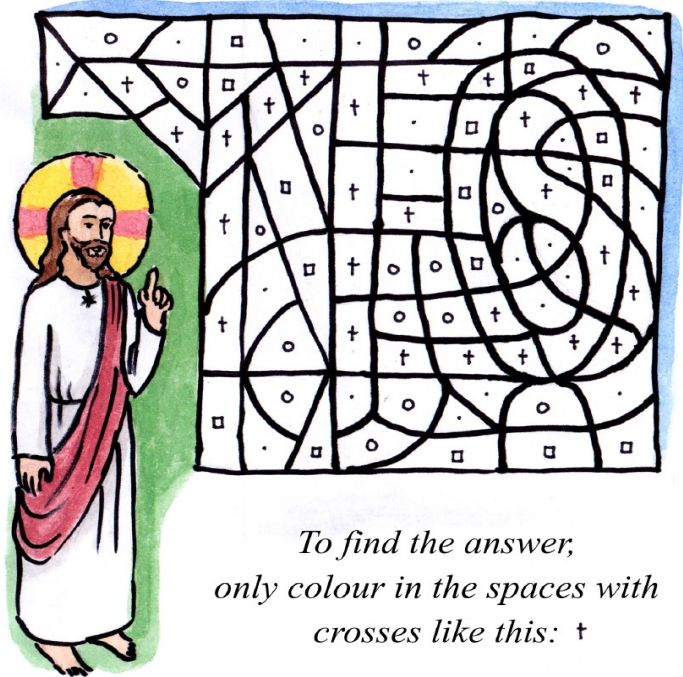
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The Kids' Bulletin

Sometimes we see other people doing things that we know are wrong.

When we see other people doing sins, does Jesus want us to talk to them about it?

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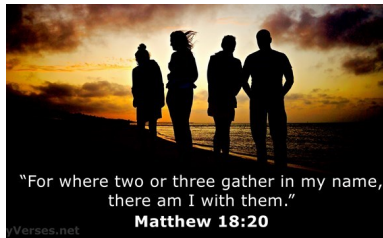
To find the answer, only colour in the spaces with crosses like this: †

...Where two or three are gathered in my Name...

TWHICHPRTA Here is the last part of today's Gospel reading. See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle. Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks.

RTLHOYATAH What is Our Lord asking us to do?
 ANYTHINGME _____
 YOUFATHER _____
 GATHEREDHE _____
 RTWOMIDSTS _____

AGAIN, AMEN, I SAY to YOU, if two of you AGREE on EARTH about ANYTHING for WHICH they are to PRAY, it SHALL be GRANTED to them by my HEAVENLY FATHER. For WHERE TWO or THREE are GATHERED TOGETHER in my NAME, THERE am I in the MIDST of them.



September 6th, 2020 — 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The collection for August 30th will be reported next week.

Help Our Community to be Counted!

Have you completed your Census Information?

The Census data determines funding for vital services, such as **fire departments** and **disaster response**, **health clinics**, **highways**, and **education programs** such as Head Start and tuition assistance. Undercounted communities lose vital funds for these and other services, and potentially lose political representation in Congress as well.

What can all of us do?

- ◆ **Challenge friends and family to complete the Census** – ask if they've done it, and help them visit the website or complete their paper form.
- ◆ **Tell others to respond** - yes, become a PSA!
- ◆ **Set the record straight** – assure others that census data is private and confidential.
- ◆ **Stay informed** – visit [2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov) to learn more.

Scripture Readings for the Week

6 th	23 RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ezekiel 33:7-9 / Romans 13:8-10 / Matthew 18:15-20
7 th	Weekday 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 / Luke 6:6-11
8 th	Feast [NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY] Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 1:1-23
9 th	Memorial [St. Peter Claver] 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 / Luke 6:20-26
10 th	Weekday 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13 / Luke 6:27-38
11 th	Weekday 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27 / Luke 6:39-42
12 th	Weekday [The Most Holy Name of Mary; BVM] 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 / Luke 6:43-49

Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30	Intentions of Fr. Sergius Propst, OP
Sunday	8:00	Intentions of Alexei Joseph Lukban
	9:30	For the People of the Parish
	11:30	Intentions of Andy Canepa
Monday	8:30	Barbara Ann Evans RIP
	5:30	Intentions of Monica Word
Tuesday	8:30	Fr. Michael Morris, OP RIP
	5:30	Stedman Matthew RIP
Wednesday	8:30	Intentions of Mary Day
	5:30	Intentions of Dorothy Portner
Thursday	8:30	Walter Ulrich RIP
	5:30	Juana Matilla Ghilardi RIP
Friday	8:30	Intentions of Jessie Morland
	5:30	Juan Vinh RIIP
Saturday	8:30	Intentions of Sr. Carmel Marie, OP

Back to School News

The School of the Madeleine has welcomed students back to school using an "expanded distance learning model." The last week of August, students and their families were able to come to school — *drive-through style* — in order to pick up materials, meet their new teachers at a safe distance, and to take pictures with the help of room parents (*see photo*). The first Zoom classes and video classes took place at each grade level as well. *Bravo to all concerned!*



First-grade teachers preparing to pose for photos.

Photo by Vice-Principal Heather Skinner

It's time to Walk for the Poor! However, this year, as with many other events, *the St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor will take place virtually.*

You will soon receive a call from our Walk for the Poor representative, parishioner Monique Duax, asking for your kind donations to the cause.

If you are not available by phone, please consider sending a check to the parish office. Or you may click on [marymagdalen.com/donate](https://www.marymagdalen.com/donate) and

choose "St. Vincent de Paul," where you may make a one-time or periodic donation. We thank you in advance for any help you can give — the need is now greater than ever.

Consider joining our Berkeley/Albany Conference of St. Vincent de Paul! Conference member **Jennifer Reid** suddenly died in June, and we need more hands on deck.

The time commitment is not great: we each respond to phone calls five days a month, with occasional home visits. We meet once a month — over Zoom these days — for sharing and spiritual reflection. Please consider joining us and helping our neighbors in a meaningful way.

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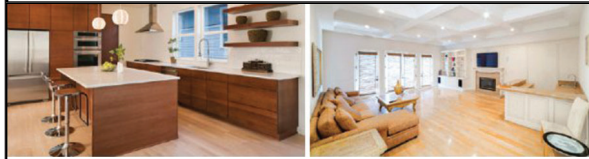
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