

I Was Thinking..... March 8, 2026



On February 18, we marked the start of the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday services at St. Bee's and St. James. We have now entered into the 40 days of Lent – the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This is always a little confusing because Sundays don't count, and so it is actually 46 days. But there are always two sure and dependable signs in Canada that Lent is upon us: Cadbury Easter Crème Eggs are back on the grocery store shelves, and Tim Horton's encourages us once again to, "Roll up the Rim to Win". These two annual events in the Canadian calendar are actually intimately connected to Lent. Cadbury's and Tim Hortons' marketing executives are well acquainted with the Christian tradition of giving up something for Lent, and so they organize their campaigns each year to precede Ash Wednesday – not because they are necessarily in support of the spirit of Lent, but because they fear people abstaining from chocolate and caffeine and they fear what that might mean for the bottom line. I encourage you to take some time during these snowy days to pray, to reflect on your spiritual health, and to be with God – and to perhaps enjoy a coffee or a bit of chocolate!

As our ACPC AGM was delayed due to weather, we will be having that meeting on March 29 following the combined service at St. James. Reverend Keith will preside over the Eucharist at this service. This will give us a chance to also discuss what came out of the meeting with the diocese on February 28. We should have a report from the diocesan representatives by March 29 and that will also be shared out.

In terms of our ACPC worship life, I am pleased to share the following information about services for Holy Week:

- Our combined Palm Sunday service will be held March 29 at 11am at St. James Church. Reverend Keith will be presiding over the Eucharist.
- Our combined Maundy Thursday service will be held at Christ Church on April 2 at 7pm.
- The ecumenical Good Friday service in Pictou will be held at St. James on Friday, April 3 at 10am and all are warmly welcomed. This annual service is organized jointly by the clergy of the 5 denominations represented in Pictou.
- The ACPC Good Friday service will be held at St. Bee's at 2pm on Friday, April 3.

- The Pictou ecumenical sunrise service on Easter morning (April 5) will be held at 6:30am at Pictou United Church. Again, all are warmly welcomed. There will be a light breakfast and time of fellowship to follow.
- For Easter Sunday, we are waiting to hear back from the diocese to see if there is a priest available to preside over Eucharist. If not, we will have services of Morning Prayer at each of the individual churches. As Reverend Keith was with us on Christmas Eve and the other churches that he serves held their Christmas services either before or after Christmas, Reverend Keith will be with those other parishes on Easter morning. We felt that this was a fair trade-off.

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge all of the hard work of your council members – including those that have recently retired from council roles as well as those who are new to council work. Thank you!!! There was a lot of time and effort invested before the meeting with the diocese on February 28, and there will be much more work to do in the days to come. Please support your council members by praying for them, by thanking them for their work, and by being mindful that we can have healthy and respectful conversations about the future.

Wishing you every blessing for a spiritually healthy and reflective Lent,

Reverend Joanne +
Deacons & Pastoral Administrator