



This Month in the Diocese

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From Darkness to Light

The month of November begins with the Feast of All Saints, honouring those faithful servants who have gone before us, and the Feast of All Souls, when we light a candle and pray for the dearly departed: our family members, friends, parishioners, and all those who have died. Then as days get shorter and it seems darkness will overtake us, we end the month with a new beginning. Our new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent, when we light the first of four candles awaiting the birth of The Light of the World: a reminder that even in darkness there is light and love always near. We wish you all a blessed November.



Gratitude and 'Good Luck'

Three members of our diocesan family mark the beginning of a new chapter: **See Pg 2 and Pg 3**

Lest We Forget

November 11 is Remembrance Day and the Feast of St. Martin of Tours, patron of our Armed Forces: **See Pg 4**

Time To Go In Reverse

Get ready and set to start your Reverse Advent Calendar in support of your food bank: **See Pg 4**



Five questions

with Ben and Debbie Jardine, lifelong residents of Sydney Mines, NS and a faithful team in family, work and life. Ben and Debbie retired this past year following years of service (See photo Page 3) keeping our pastoral offices clean, first in Sydney Mines and then in our current location in Membertou.



1. You celebrated your 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 7, 2021: how did you two meet?

Debbie: "We met at a dance at the Odd Fellows Hall in Sydney Mines. There was a dance there every Saturday night. Friends of ours were dating, and at the end of the night Ben drove me home." Ben: "Then I called her, and a year and a half later, we were married."

Debbie: "We both grew up in Sydney Mines, but went to different schools – I went to Notre Dame, he went to the Protestant school, so we didn't meet until that night at the dance. But we found out later our parents knew each other, so there was a connection after all."

2. Has Sydney Mines always been home for you?

Debbie: "It has been for me. Ben moved here when he was three. It's been a good place to raise our three children. All our children are in Ottawa now, but we have a granddaughter and four grandchildren here, so it's still home, for now."

Ben: "A lot of changes, though. When we were growing up, everyone worked in either the mines, the fish plant or the steel mill. All of those are gone now."

3. How did you come to work for the diocese?

Debbie: "I grew up going to Notre Dame School and attending Immaculate Conception Church. I knew the sisters, who lived in the convent next to the church. While our children were growing up Ben worked for a wholesaler in the warehouse. Ben: "A good steady job at the time. Our oldest was in the armed forces and the next was in college when the wholesaler closed and the job was gone."

Debbie: "I was working at Shoppers Drug Mart to help make ends meet, when the sisters offered me a job as a cook. Five years later, they offered Ben a maintenance job. When the sisters left we were about to lose our jobs when the diocese turned the convent into their pastoral centre and asked if we would stay on as cleaners and maintenance. When they moved to Membertou in 2016, we moved with them."

4. What are you looking forward to in retirement?

Ben: "Free time to do absolutely nothing! But of course, we won't actually do nothing ..."

Debbie: "We're 70 now, and we were starting to get tired of the commute. Now, our routine will be taking our grandchildren to school and the pool, and spending time with them (ages 8, 4, 3 and 1)."

Ben: "It will be nice to enjoy retirement while we still have the health to do it. My father was a miner, he died at 59. Debbie's father was a miner, he died in his early 60s. We've worked hard, and had some hard times and a few health issues, but it will be nice now to enjoy what we have."

5. Any words of wisdom for us as you enjoy this milestone in your lives?

Ben: "Don't spend what you don't make – enjoy what you have, live simply, so you can weather the good times and the tough times. Debbie: "Stick together: that way, you can deal with anything."



With Gratitude and Warm Wishes:

On Nov.3 diocesan staff gathered for food, fellowship, laughter (and a few tears) to honour Mae Rowe and Ben and Debbie Jardine on their retirements.



Mae began working in the diocesan bookstore in 1995, and after serving as a municipal councillor returned in 2017 as administrative assistant in the pastoral centre and coordinator of Mass for Shut-Ins.

Ben and Debbie worked as cleaners for our pastoral centre since 2010, first in Sydney Mines and then in our new offices in Membertou.

Group photo, In front, from left: Allan and Mae Rowe, Debbie and Ben Jardine In middle row, from left:

Marie Wilson, cleaner; Norma

Blinkhorn, youth ministry; Debbie Aker, catechetical consultant;



Patricia Fricker-Bates, former matrimonial tribunal officer; Fr. Bedford Doucette, Director of Permanent Diaconate; and Imelda Terry and Sandra O'Connell, Business Office.

In back, from left: Nick Vince, administrative assistant and coordinator of Mass for Shut-Ins; Irene MacNeil, Emmaus Bookstore; Margie Gillis, assistant director of liturgy; Fr. Paul McGillvray, CBRH chaplain and social justice; Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick; Cathy Farrow, managing director.

Nov. 14: World Day of the Poor



“The face of God revealed by Jesus is that of a Father concerned for and close to the poor. In everything, Jesus teaches that poverty is not the result of fate, but a concrete sign pointing to his presence among us. We do not find him when and where we want, but see him in the lives of the poor, in their sufferings and needs, in the often inhuman conditions in which they are forced to live. As I never tire of repeating, the poor are true evangelizers, for they were the first to be evangelized and called to share in the Lord's joy and his kingdom (cf. *Mt* 5:3).”

Read Pope Francis' letter:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20210613-messaggio-v-giornatamondiale-poveri-2021.html>



“When I reflect on those individuals from years past to present who served their country with such faithfulness I am in awe and respect for the veteran who is selling poppies as I leave a store. These heroes live among us still. Thank them for their service. Sometimes we can forget what those words mean to them. ” - Fr. Patrick O’Neill

On Nov. 11 we honour Remembrance Day and the Feast of St. Martin of Tours, patron of the Military Ordinariate of Canada

Fr. Patrick O’Neill, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Sydney River, has been a member of the Armed Forces for 13 years, serving as a chaplain in the army. “When I reflect on this special day, I give thanks to those who have paid the Ultimate Sacrifice, those who came home, our retired members, those who are now currently serving in the Canadian Forces and the families that support soldiers past and present.”

Read Fr. Patrick’s Remembrance Day reflection on Our Blog:
<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/remembranceday2021/>



Nov. 17 is Red Wednesday, an initiative to raise awareness about the persecution of Christians. An estimated 327 million Christians worldwide experience persecution in various degrees and their situation reminds us not only of the situations of discrimination and persecution involving members of other religions, but also the erosion of and attacks against freedom of conscience and religion in the Western world, including Canada. On this day various churches in Canada and the country’s largest Marian shrine, Our Lady of the Cape in Trois Rivières, QC, will illuminate their facades in red. For a full schedule of events and what you can do to honour the day: <https://acn-canada.org/red-wednesday/>

Get Your basket ready!



Reverse Advent Calendar begins December 1

Add a donation each day for delivery to your local food bank. Then reflect in prayer, connected by faith and service to communities throughout our diocese. Watch our website for more information or contact norma@dioceseofantigonish.ca

Suggested Donations

- 1.Box of Cereal
- 2.Peanut butter
- 3.Stuffing mix
- 4.Boxed potatoes
- 5.Mac and cheese
- 6.Canned fruit
- 7.Canned tomatoes
- 8.Canned tuna
- 9.Dessert mix
- 10.Jar of applesauce
- 11.Juice boxes
- 12.Cranberry sauce
- 13.Canned beans
- 14.Box of crackers
- 15.Package of rice
- 16.Package of oatmeal
- 17.Package of pasta
- 18.Spaghetti sauce
- 19.Chicken noodle soup
- 20.Tomato soup
- 21.Canned corn
- 22.Canned mixed vegetables
- 23.Canned carrots
- 24.Canned green beans