

Pastor's Corner - March 6, 2011 - Called to be Desert People

Apology & clarification: I need to apologize for having left the wrong impression or/and for having used ambiguous wording. In order to avoid possible confusion and misinterpretation I need to affirm that the leaders of the RCIA program have been these past few years and are still Janet and Tom Moir. The Parish, and I in particular, owe them much gratitude for having taken on this important ministry.

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten journey as desert people. The desert is a place where we face ourselves and see things as they really are, where, like Jesus, we are tempted. C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), known today because of the film Narnia, but really a well-known author and Christian apologist who wrote those wonderful little books like "Miracles", "The Screwtape Letters", "Surprised by Joy", "The Problem of Pain", said in "Mere Christianity" that only good people can know a great deal about temptation. He said that bad people know very little about temptation because only the good, who try to resist temptation, know its strength: "after all, you find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down!" Those who too quickly yield to temptation never learn to deal with it because they have never attempted to put up a struggle. Lewis suggested that because Jesus was the only man who never gave in to temptation, he is the only man who knew to the full what temptation means: "Christ is the only complete realist!"

Jesus, the Good and the true Realist, the new Moses who gives us a new law which fulfills the old, is the one we need to turn to as we walk along the road and make our daily choices for or against evil. We are not born with sin and sin is not hereditary; after all, human beings have been created in goodness by a good and loving God. But we are constantly tempted and contaminated by a world, by an environment that knows evil by name. At the same time, evil is not unavoidable; no one is forced to choose it. We can freely choose to do what is evil, and when we do, there is no one to blame except ourselves. We cannot blame Adam and Eve, we cannot even blame original sin. "The devil made me do it" cannot be our excuse! To the question of how come evil exists, someone wrote a very brief response: "Dear Sir, I am. Yours faithfully, G.K. Chesterton." Chesterton understood that the responsibility for the existence of evil lies in the face that looks back at me from the mirror.

Jesus is the example for us of someone who was born in the same world and environment as we but who used his free will to overcome evil and not give into it. Jesus is an example to us of someone who faced the same world of evil as we, and yet did not allow himself to be contaminated by it. Jesus is someone who refused to allow another to replace God in his life.

How did Jesus do that? By constantly trusting and relying only on God and God's Word. In that Word and in his relationship with God, he found the strength he needed to stand up to evil and not to be influenced by it. He took responsibility for himself and much more. After all, he also took on the responsibility of all of us and all our sinning.

Lent is the time when we follow Jesus' example and take on responsibility for ourselves, our thoughts and our words, for what we have done and, most important, for what we have failed to do. Lent is the time when we seek out and reclaim our true self, the way, deep within our hearts, we truly wish to be and the way God wishes us to be. Lent is the time to turn from the path of least resistance, and to truly face and overcome our temptations, and thereby grow and move towards maturity. At the end of our Lenten journey is Easter, when we become Easter people, when we have met the test, overcome temptation and completed the journey with Jesus from death to life.

Come this Wednesday, receive the ashes on your forehead and the grace of strength given to us in Jesus, and let us together as a desert people begin our Lenten journey towards Easter and life!

Shalom!

Fr. Rolf

Saanich Peninsula Parish

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Box 2116, Sidney, BC, V8L 3S6 **web-site: www.spparish.com** e-mail: spparish@shaw.ca

Parish Office: 250-656-7433, Fax 250-483-1597, Rectory: 250-652-1990

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

PASTOR: Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan (Co-Chairs)



<p>EUCCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S 10030 Third Street, Sidney Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am. Daily on Tuesdays (8:30 am), Wednesdays and Thursdays (9 am), and First Fridays (9 am). RECONCILIATION AT ST. ELIZABETH'S Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm</p>	<p>EUCCHARIST AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION 7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton Sundays at 8:30 am Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am Remaining Fridays at 9 am in a private home. (See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.)</p>
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9TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARCH 6, 2011

Deu: 11. 18, 26-28, 32/ Rom: 3. 21-25, 28/Mt 7. 22-27

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would like a visit from the Pastor or the Visitation Team, please call the office at 250-656-7433.

MISSION STATEMENT

*Let us be open
accepting individuals
sensitive to change
and willing to take
Courses untraditional,
unknown to us.
Let us live as
examples of God's love.*

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NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

Please fill out the information below so we can get to know you. Pick up one of the blue information pamphlets next to the bulletins in the foyer so you can get to know us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

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PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 4,070
February 6:	\$ 4,916
February 13:	\$ 2,798
February 20:	\$ 3,395
February 27:	\$ 3,067
Monthly Target:	Approx. \$ 23,000

We offer condolences to the families and pray for the repose of the souls of:

- **Noemia Deelay**, sister of Fatima Warner
- **Peter Reid**, brother of Sandra Jones
- **Shirley Peterson**

IN OUR PARISH

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEB. 9

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting from meat, when we receive the ashes and begin our Lenten Journey. Masses are at 9 am and 7 pm. Bring your children.

K OF C PENNIES FOR HEAVEN: MAR. 5 & 6

The Knights of Columbus is holding their annual Pennies for Heaven Campaign before and after masses this weekend, to support vocations.

CAN YOU HELP OUR NEEDY?

Contributions of razors, combs, deodorants & especially toothpaste are appreciated. Please leave items in the Anawim box in the foyer.

K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: MAR. 20

Hungry? On Sun. Mar. 20 you can enjoy a delicious Pancake Breakfast served up by the Knights of Columbus after mass.



IN OUR DIOCESE

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR NEEDED

Position available for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria's Annual Appeal. For information contact the parish office. Resume deadline: Mar. 31.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MAR. 7

1:00pm Memory Plus
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group

TUESDAY, MAR. 8

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm CWL Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 9

ASH WEDNESDAY

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Mass
7:00pm RCIA

THURSDAY, MAR. 10

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, MAR. 11

9:00am Mass at the home of Kevin and Magdalene Campbell (412-7459)

SATURDAY, MAR. 12

4 - 4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAR. 13

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

"RETURNING TO THE SPIRIT" RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL RECONCILIATION PROGRAM, PART I: MAR. 7 - 11

Workshops in Cowichan and Nanaimo. The *Returning to the Spirit* program is based on returning the people to the spirit of who they are rather than reliving the painful experience of the past, particularly that of residential schools. For more information contact Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins at the Diocese Office (250-479-1331), or email chancery@rcdvictoria.org.

YOUTH VOICES VIDEO CHALLENGE

Youth Voices Challenge, sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, invites youth aged 13 - 19 to produce a YouTube video, 3 - 5 min. in length based on one or more of Jesus' teachings. Top prize of \$1,500 will go to the youth group in the Diocese who gets the highest number of hits for their video. For further info and rules visit www.catholicfoundationofvancouverisland.org.

FAITH TRANSFORMING SOCIETY: MAR. 21

A presentation on Mon. Mar. 21, 7 - 9 pm at Holy Cross Parish, 4029 Gordon Head Rd., Victoria by Caroljean Willie, Ph.D will highlight the impact of international Christian initiatives to create a more caring, just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA GARAGE SALE: MAR. 26

St. Rose of Lima, 6221 Sooke Rd. is having a Garage Sale on Mar. 26, 9 am - 2 pm, in aid of their Church Building Fund.

GENERAL

LINDEN SINGERS CONCERT: MAR. 6

"I Choristi: Opera through the Eyes of the Chorister". Sunday, March 6, 2:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's. Experience a journey through well-known operas through the eyes of a member of the opera chorus! Tickets available at In Touch Cards & Gifts and Tanner's Books.

REDISCOVERING THE LORD'S PRAYER: MAR. 18 & 19

John Dominic Crossan will lead a conference at Parish Hall of The Church of St. John the Divine, 925 Balmoral St. on Mar. 18 & 19. Cost: \$90. Registration: 250-383-7169, or email admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca. For more info see the poster in St. Elizabeth's Church foyer.

GRAD FASHION SHOW & TEA:

St. Andrew's Regional High School's 2011 graduating class presents "*Masquerade*", their Fashion Show and Tea on Fri. Mar. 11, 7 pm at Holy Cross Church, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. Admission: \$10.

UVIC CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURES (FREE)

- Mon. Mar. 7, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Mac Bldg., Rm. D010: *The People of No Religion: The Loss of Religion in Canada, the US and Great Britain Since 1950*. Callum Brown
- Tues. Mar. 8, 7 pm, Strong Bldg., Rm. C126: *Spirituality and Funeral Trends*.
- Wed. Mar. 9, 4pm, Social Science Bldg., Rm. A104: *At Home in the Scriptures*.

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOC. BURSARY

The Catholic Health Association of BC is awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to 2011 graduating students who are members of a BC parish. Students must submit a 500 word essay demonstrating an awareness and understanding of the significance of "Spirituality in Health Care". Submissions must be received by Mar. 31. For more info see chabc.bc.ca - Upcoming Events.

VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY: MAR. 13

Victoria Choral Society on Sun, Mar. 13, 2:30 pm for an amazing musical experience as they perform David Fanshawe's "*African Sanctus*". This unique and electrifying work takes the setting of the Latin Mass and incorporates traditional African singing and drumming as well as Islamic sounds like the muezzin's call to prayer. Location: UVic Farquhar Auditorium. More information at www.victoriachoralsociety. Tickets: \$32 / \$20 (students) at UVic Ticket Centre or www.auditorium.uvic.ca.

VIA CHORALIS CONCERT: APR. 17

Via Choralis presents the premiere of *Nicholas Fairbank's Sea Cantata*, including Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, op. 80, with Jennifer Mitchell (piano), Jared Richardson's Winds of Kananaskis and two American folksongs arranged by Aaron Copland. Tickets: adults - \$20, 18 and under - \$10. Available from Tanner's Books, choir members, or at the door. For more information see www.viachoralis.ca.