

Pastor's Corner - Easter 2011

At the beginning of this Holy Week on Passion (Palm) Sunday the Word of God proclaimed that Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem from the east and like the sun bringing a new day, Jesus brought a new way of seeing to the people of the world. Our celebration reminded us that Jesus enters our city, all those areas and all those actions of our world that are opposed to God.

This week's celebrations reminded us that God cares, that God is not indifferent to our human condition, that God wants to be with us in our suffering, in our difficulties, even in our sins. At the beginning of Lent we had written all these on the pieces of paper which we had stuck on the cross in the centre of the church. God heard our cries for help and has entered our "city", our lives, our places of defeat and pain. **The burning of the pieces of paper at the Easter Vigil symbolizes for us that God in Jesus conquers all evil, triumphs over our own sins, triumphs over the sins of humankind.**

When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem it seemed that he would be defeated by the powers of evil and that in death he was a loser. Already last Sunday the Word proclaimed announced that Jesus would not be a loser despite his suffering and death, and that he would triumph. We too must enter those places and events in our lives where we seem to be the losers, all those places and events where we are asked to take up the cross, the crosses of our own life.

Our celebrations this Holy Week have assured us that we are not alone that Jesus walks with us as we confront fear and uncertainty, evil and suffering, and that we will triumph with Jesus, the Risen one. God in Jesus has entered our life and God in Jesus has personally confronted evil in order to transform that evil, those defeats and pains of ours.

Today's celebration of Easter in many ways continues to underline both these aspects.

The Gospel readings talk of disciples and we looking with fear into tombs, the signs of pain and death still around us. We wonder whether we will ever get beyond all these. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we may be burdened by illness, by enormous losses, the loss of a loved one, the crushing of a dream, the betrayal by another. We may see ourselves as locked in a tomb unable to free ourselves, unable to roll away the stones of death (violence, corruption, sexism, oppression, hopelessness, disappointment). Jesus' resurrection tells us that God is with us to help us roll away the stones, that God is there to help us discover life in the midst of the experience of death. We are called to move away the stones from the tombs of our world, to undo all the acts, words, and thoughts of violence and hatred that are our world. We know this is possible because God does the impossible and with God we can do the impossible.

Today's readings also tell us that we need to "see and believe", to see in a different way, that we need to remember the Scriptures that remind us that "the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, to be crucified, and on the third day rise again (Luke 24)." We need to be reminded by the witness of the "other disciple", of another believer, of each other, of our community whose faith is there to sustain us. **We cannot sustain our belief, our hope on our own; we need each other to strengthen our conviction that all we believe will come true some day. We need to come together on Sundays to be reminded by others of the depth of God's love for us and of the triumph of that love over all evil. I need the witness of faith of the person next to me. I need to remember the faith of those countless witnesses through history who have shown me that God does the impossible. And it is because I am surrounded by these other witnesses that I can be truly happy, that I can live life to the full despite the difficulties and cares of my daily life.**

That happiness is fulfilled when I am sustained by the witness of my neighbour and when I in turn witness to others. The Triduum celebrations reminded me that, following the example of Jesus, such witness includes service to others, the willingness to be a voluntary pain bearer, and the willingness to forgive and to accept the forgiveness of others.

May the celebration of Easter bring you that true joy and peace.

Happy Easter - Shalom
Fr. Rolf

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

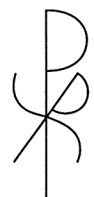
Parish Office: 250-656-7433, Fax 250-483-1597, Rectory: 250-652-1990

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>EUCHARIST 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).</p> <p>RECONCILIATION AT ST. ELIZABETH'S Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm</p>	<p>EUCHARIST AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION 7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton Sundays at 8:30 am</p> <p>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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APRIL 24, 2011

EASTER

Acts 10:34, 36-43 / Col 3:1-4 / 1 Cor 5:6-8 /

Jn 20:1-18 / Lk 24:13-35

HE IS RISEN!

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):	\$ 4,240
April 3:	\$ 4,184
April 10:	\$ 4,663
April 17:	\$ 4,344
Share Lent Total:	\$ 3,486
Monthly Target:	Approx. \$ 23,000

IN OUR PARISH

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

- **Laurette Agnew**
- **Cathy Beglan**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MAY 1

The parish Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at noon on Sun. May 1. **Please attend!**

EASTER BREAKS:

- Faith Reflection Group - resumes **May 2**
- Friendly Hours - resumes **Tues, May 3**
- Memory Plus - resumes **May 9**

K of C ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: MAY 14

at St. Elizabeth's on Sat. May 14 from 8 am - 2 pm. You can drop off saleable donations at the church on Thurs. and Fri. (May 12 & 13). All donations must be inspected. For more info call Gord at 250-652-4379.

BIRTHRIGHT PLANT SALE: SAT. MAY 14

In conjunction with the K of C garage sale at St. Elizabeth's. Proceeds to Birthright Victoria, which provides support for women who decide to carry their child to term in difficult circumstances. **Donations of plants for the sale are gratefully accepted.** For more info call Art or Alanna Menu at 250-656-0138.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

The Bishop sent us a two page letter re the upcoming federal election. It is posted on the bulletin board. Copies are also available in the foyer on one of the tables.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APRIL 25

9:00am **Easter Monday Mass**

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

9:00am Mass
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

11:00am Saanich Peninsula Hospital

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

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

SUNDAY, MAY 1

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
9:45am Religious Education Classes
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
12:00pm **Annual General Meeting**

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER & DANCE: MAY 6

Last chance to buy tickets! (Tickets not available at the door.) Call Aida Follero at 250-544-1704. At St. Elizabeth's on Fri. May 6, doors open at 6:30 pm. Come and join us for a great family night out! Music by "Mad Hatters".

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SEPT. 30 & OCT. 1

In preparation for the new GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal), the Diocese of Victoria will be sponsoring a workshop for our pastoral musicians, singers and clergy on Fri. Sep. 30 (evening) and Sat. Oct. 1 (all day) at Holy Cross Parish. The workshop will be facilitated by Bernadette Gasslein, editor of *Celebrate!*, Canada's award winning liturgy magazine.

IN OUR DIOCESE

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE MAY 27 - 29

At St. Andrew's Regional High School for all youth in grades 8 - 12 and recent grads. Guest Speakers: APeX Ministries, Inc. (aka Gene and Brad), well known for their juggling skills, sketch comedy and personal testimony. Registration forms available from www.rcdvictoria.org. For more information, contact teamdyc@gmail.com

MASS IN THANKSGIVING: MAY 1

In commemoration of the Beatification of John Paul II in Rome, the Polish Community will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 1, 12:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

MAY 5: from 9:30 - 11 am. Children with their parents are invited to join the preschool activities, meet the teachers, and find out more about the kindergarten readiness preschool program.

ST. PATRICK'S CLOTHING SALE: MAY 6&7

St. Patrick's Parish CWL will be having a Spring Used Clothing Sale on May 6 & 7 from 9:30 am - 2 pm in the parish hall.

WORLD YOUTH DAY "LATIN NIGHT": MAY 6

Please support our Diocesan pilgrims who wish to attend 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain by attending our fundraiser on May 6, 7 pm at St. Joseph's including dinner, drinks and salsa dancing. Adults - \$30, students - \$25, family - \$80. Tickets available by calling Jeremy Cote at 250-474-3968, or email nicolesousa@gmail.com.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA: MAY 7

St. Rose of Lima Parish presents a Mother's Day Tea on Sat. May 7 at their church hall. Tickets are available from the parish office (1-250-642-3945). Cost: \$15 per person.

DIVINE MERCY: MAY 10

St. Andrew's Cathedral (at the parish centre) is offering a four week course on *Divine Mercy* - *St. Faustina* on Tuesdays, May 10 - 31, 7 - 9 pm. Facilitator, Peter Jones, A.Th. To register for this free course call 250-388-5571 or email standrewscathedral@gmail.com.

MORE WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS

- Sat. **May 7**, 9:30 - noon, at Sacred Heart Hall. Experience a wholistic practice of combining visualization, self expression, and movement in a celebration of life with *The Journey Dance* with Marilyn Diehl.
- Sat. **June 4**, Sister Patricia Shreenan will guide ways to bring insight into action in "*Keeping the Peace Within*".

Cost: \$10 each per Saturday at the door, or prepaid (funds collected for the presenter). For more info call Paula (744-2588), Mary (370-0083) or Marilyn (parish office 479-1611 or home 361-4393).

MARCH FOR LIFE: MAY 12

4th annual March for Life. 12 pm: Worship at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View St.; 1:45 pm: Assembly at Centennial Square for the March to the B.C. Legislature for the Rally for Life. March for Life Banquet at St. Andrew's Elementary School Gym. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner is at 6 pm. Call 388-5571 for tickets (cost: \$35).

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: MAR. 2012

Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Florence and Siena, Italy. Join Fr. William on Mar. 16 - 25, 2012 in Italy. Cost (all taxes included): \$3,599 US from Victoria. Please contact St. Joseph's Parish at 250-479-7413 to reserve your place, or contact Mr. Stuart Andrei (sandrie@cisdv.bc.ca).

GENERAL

EARTH LITERACIES PROGRAM: APR. 28

Conversations on the New Cosmology: Thu. Apr. 28, noon - 1:30 pm. Sugg. donation: \$10. With Bill Wilson, SJ PhD. Location: Friend's Meeting House, 1831 Fern St, Victoria.

PENINSULA SINGERS CONCERTS

"All You Need is Love" at Mary Winspear Centre.

- Fri. April 29 at 7:30 pm
- Sat. April 30 at 7:30 pm
- Sun. May 1 at 2:00 pm

Proceeds to local charities! Tickets: adults - \$20, children - \$10, available at Mary Winspear.