

Pastor's Corner - July 2011

Summer is a time when we are invited to relax, to renew ourselves physically. But it is also a time when we are invited to take time out, time out from that over-business which has crept into our lives; time out from that computer, that cell phone and ipod in order to nourish our spiritual hunger, in order to find a better balance in our lives. That doesn't mean that we need pick up one more spiritual book; after all we are over-saturated with so-called spiritual books which do not really bring much clarity. I suggest that it is better to go back to one or two good books and re-meditate on their contents. I believe an author like Ron Rolheiser can help us do that, for example in his book "The Holy Longing". You know Rolheiser has a column which is published in some 60 newspapers. The June 8 issue of the Prairie Messenger has his article "simplifying our spiritual vocabulary to just three words." Here is an excerpt.

"Somewhere near his 75th birthday, Morris West wrote a series of autobiographical essays entitled, A View from the Ridge. In the Prologue of that book he suggests that at age 75 you need to have only one word left in your spiritual vocabulary, gratitude, and that maturity is attained precisely at that moment when gratitude begins to drown out and cauterize the hurts in your life. As he describes it: Life has served me as it serves everyone, sometimes well and sometimes ill, but I have learned to be grateful for the gifts of it, for the love that began it and the other loves with which I have been so richly endowed. I agree with West, though it necessary to add that the fruit of that maturity is forgiveness. Just as smoke follows fire, forgiveness follows gratitude. Gratitude ultimately undergirds and fuels all genuine virtue, is the real basis of holiness, and the source of love itself. And its major fruit is forgiveness. When we are grateful we more easily find the strength to forgive. **Moreover, just as gratitude undergirds genuine virtue, forgiveness undergirds genuine religion and morality. Thus, as we get older, we can trim our spiritual vocabulary down to three words: Forgive, forgive, forgive!** To age into and then die with a forgiving heart is the ultimate moral and religious imperative. ... **All the dogmatic and moral purity in the world does little for us if our hearts are bitter and incapable of forgiveness.**

We see this, for instance, in the sad figure of the older brother of the prodigal son. He stands before his father protesting that he has never wandered, never been unfaithful, and that he has stayed home and done the family's work. But, and this is the issue, he stands outside the father's house, unable to enter into joy, celebration, the banquet, the dance. He's done everything right, but a bitter heart prevents him from entering the father's house just as much as the lustful wanderings of his younger brother took him out of that same house. **Religious and moral fidelity, when not rooted inside of gratitude and forgiveness, are far from enough. They can leave us just as much outside the father's house as sin and infidelity.** As Jesus teaches forcefully in the Lord's Prayer, a non-negotiable condition for going to heaven is forgiveness, especially our forgiving those who have hurt us. But the struggle to forgive others is not easy and may never be trivialized or preached lightly. The struggle to forgive, I suspect, is our greatest psychological, moral, and religious struggle. It's not easy to forgive. Most everything inside of us protests. When we have been wronged, when we have suffered an injustice, when someone or something has treated us unfairly, a thousand physical and psychological mechanisms inside of us begin to clam-up, shut-down, freeze- over, self-protect, and scream-out in protest, anger, and rage. Forgiveness is not something we can simply will and make happen. The heart, as Pascal once said, has its reasons. It also has its rhythms, its paranoia, its cold bitter spots, and its need to seal itself off from whatever has wounded it. ... So much of the lightness or heaviness in our hearts, most every nuance of our mood, is unconsciously dictated by either the forgiveness or the non-forgiveness inside us. **Forgiveness is the deep secret to joy. It is also the ultimate imperative.**

Je Rolfe, OP

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)



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).

RECONCILIATION AT ST. ELIZABETH'S
Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm

**EUCHARIST 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.)

JULY, 2011 READINGS:

- JULY 10:** 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isa 55.10-11 / Rom 8.18-23 / Mt 13.1-23
- JULY 17:** 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Wis 12.13, 16-19 / Rom 8.26-27 / Mt 13.24-43
- JULY 24:** 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1 Kings 3.5-12 / Rom 8.28-30 / Mt 13.44-52
- JULY 31:** 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isa 55.1-3 / Rom 8.35, 37-39 / Mt 14.13-21
- AUG 7:** 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1 Kings 19.9,11-13/ Rom 9. 1-5/ Mt 14.22-33

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.*

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 ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 4,185
June 26:	\$ 3,294
July 3:	\$ 3,833
Monthly Target:	Approx. \$ 23,000

IN OUR PARISH

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

- **Terry Bittley** (funeral was on June 22)
- **Bernice (Bunny) Schelletter** (funeral was on June 30)
- **Angela (Angie) Gibbs** (funeral was on July 8)
- **Lee Heide** (funeral will be at **Our Lady of the Assumption** on **Thursday, July 14 at 10 am**)

We offer congratulations on the celebration of the Marriages of:

- **Andrew Krakowski & Erin Bender**
- **Gordon Johnstone & Agnes Mabiog**
- **Daniel Craig & Shanna Ridley**

NO 9 AM MASS ON THURSDAY JULY 14

Due to funeral mass at 10 AM at OLA.

YOUTH VOICES CHALLENGE VIDEOS

Our parish Youth Group is seeking your support for their video, entitled "Camel", in the Diocese of Victoria's "Youth Voices Challenge 2011" contest. You can view their video by searching YouTube for "Youth Voices Challenge Camel". View it as often as you can, and spread the word about where it is located. Cash prizes will be awarded to the production teams based on the most numbers of views. Views will be counted until 1:00 pm on Thurs. Sept. 22. The Youth Voices Challenge is sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island and the Diocese of Victoria's Office of Religious Education.

GARDENING ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We are looking for someone who can assist with trimming the bushes at St. Elizabeth's. Electric trimmer provided. Please contact Gary at the parish office (250-656-7433).

THIS MONTH IN THE PARISH

MONDAYS

TUESDAYS

9:00am Mass
7:00pm **(Aug. 2)** K of C Executive Meeting

WEDNESDAYS

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAYS

9:00am Mass
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAYS

9:00am **(July 15)** Mass at Legion Manor
9:00am **(July 22)** Mass at the home of Vera Gear (250-652-2774)
11:00am **(July 29)** Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital
9:00am **(Aug. 5)** Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SATURDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

8:30am Mass at Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Coffee Fellowship
7:30pm **(July 10)** Raven Baroque Concert

O.L.A. CLEANER WANTED

Wanted, someone to clean Our Lady of Assumption Church for the first Sunday of each month. It is a commitment of no more than an hour each month. If interested please contact Pat Brown at 250-655-1333.

PASTORAL VISITS TO SICK UPDATE

Due to the new Diocesan policy, we will need to have two people together visit the sick. Because there are not enough volunteers, it may be necessary to cut back on the visits. Family members are requested to bring communion to their loved ones, where possible.

RAVEN BAROQUE CONCERT: JULY 10

On Sun. July 10, 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's Raven Baroque will play hits from the 1650's and beyond. See poster in front foyer for more info.

IN OUR DIOCESE

DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPS: CANCELLED

BISHOP GAGNON ANNIVERSARY: JULY 20

On Wed. July 20 at noon, Bishop Richard Gagnon will celebrate the seventh anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination with a mass at the Cathedral followed by a reception. All are invited to attend. Rosary at 11:25 am.

FULFORD VALLEY SPIRITWALK: JULY 23

On July 23, 10 am - 3 pm, Spiritwalk in the Fulford Valley. For more info see the story in the June edition of the Diocesan Messenger on page 7.

JOURNEY OF HEART & HANDS: OCT. 28 & 29

Mark your calendar! Join the Diocesan Conference "Discipleship: Continuing the Journey of Hearts & Hands" on Oct. 27 & 29 at St. Andrew's Regional High School. Features dynamic speaker David Wells from Devon, England who will explore the impact of current cultural forces on the Church, with particular focus on the six key areas outlined in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. More details to follow.

THE NEW TRANSLATION - LORD I AM NOT WORTHY

As the priest invites us to receive Holy Communion, he will say 'Behold', rather than 'This is', 'the Lamb of God'. 'Behold' means 'to look at' and is our invitation to adore Christ who we are about to receive in Holy Communion. We are used to saying 'Lord I am not worthy to receive you'. This will change to: 'Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed'. This is almost exactly what the Roman Centurion said when he came and begged Jesus to heal his servant. When Jesus says he will come to the Centurion's house, the Centurion says: 'Lord I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word and my servant will be healed'. Our new reply changes only one word of the Centurion's speech - my servant becomes my soul will be healed.

GENERAL

BIRTHRIGHT STROLLERTHON: JULY 23

On Sat. July 23 at 10 am, Birthright Victoria is holding their 2nd annual Strollerthon fund raiser - a 5 km walk around James Bay by contestants of all ages. We need participants and we need sponsors. Sponsor sheets are available from the parish office. The walk starts at Fisherman's Wharf Park on St. Lawrence St. Drinks and cake provided at the finishing point from 11 am onwards. Please help us to raise funds for mothers and babies who need our help. Birthright is a Registered Canadian Charity. Contact: Ann Richards (250-391-9892).

HYMN SING: JULY 24

St. Stephen's Outdoor Hymn Sing will be on Sun. Jul 24 at 6:30 pm. Bring your lawn chair to 7921 St. Stephen's Rd. Saanichton (off Mt. Newton X Rd). Indoors if inclement weather. For info call 250-652-4311. Everyone welcome.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: AUG. 7

At St. Stephens on Sun. Aug. 7 at 2 pm. All animals both large and small are welcome. Last year 67 of God's creatures brought 122 human family and friends to St. Stephen's Annual Animal Blessing Service. These were 1 llama, 1 parakeet, 1 rat, 2 horses, 5 cats and 57 dogs. A collection will go to P.A.T.S. (Pacific Animal Therapy Society).

VICTORIA SUMMER CHOIR

The Victoria Summer Choir will be included in "A Midsummer's Night Concert" on Sat. July 30 at 7:30 pm at Fairfield United Church. The Annual Victoria Summer Choir 2011, with Maestro Simon Leung will be on Fri. Aug. 26 at 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's in Sidney. Their program will feature love songs from Broadway musicals, opera and folksongs. Tickets for both programs will be \$20 at the door or from Tanners in Sidney. For more information call Frances at 250-360-0356 or email cchay@shaw.ca.