

Pastor's Corner Lent 5 - Life & Death

Each day of our lives we are faced with that fundamental pattern of human living which is life and death, death and life. In these days of spring weather interspersed with cold and wind we recognize this pattern in the seasons of the year. But more importantly, we experience this life and death in so many more personal ways in the changes in our life, in the sudden discovery of an illness, in the loss of a job, the break-up of a marriage or a relationship, the hope of a young person for employment dashed once more, the grief at a loss of someone dear. We are touched by the signs of life, death, violence and hatred on our television screens in far off places and then closer to home. We recognize or/and experience the loneliness of just being alone, of depression, the loneliness of the migrant seen as an intruder, the loneliness of people arrived in this part of the country from elsewhere and who find themselves as perpetual "outsiders".

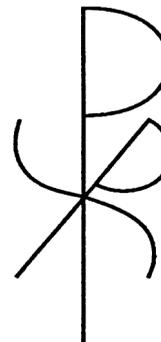
The paschal mystery which we are celebrating identifies all these and many other familiar signs of death and dyings of our lives. We are challenged to accept the core of our faith which tells us that **our God, in Jesus, identifies with these deaths and dyings, and lives them with us. We are challenged to accept that our God is faithful to this way of being with us.** And it is because of this fidelity that Christ conquers all forms of death and dying and creates new life.

Every Sunday we celebrate this paschal mystery. But we also celebrate it in our everyday lives; we celebrate it every time we emerge from a tomb and awaken to new life. Our faith in Jesus tells us that already here and now my faith in God can loosen the bonds that bind me to all forms of death the way Lazarus was bound by linens and freed because of Jesus' call to him. Our faith tells us that **our death experiences, no matter how painful, need not be death experiences because within them are the seeds of new life;** the desert area in front of the altar is symbolic of those seeds of new life present within all our experiences. **Each life experience that helps us to see what binds us and how we can be freed is one that is life giving, an experience that gives us hope.** We need to keep this hope in our hearts; it is a gift from God given to each one of us in our baptism, in our faith, given to us in this Lenten season. Remember of **Vaclav Havel** (playwright, political dissident): "**Life without hope is an empty, boring and useless life.** I cannot imagine that I could strive for something if I did not carry hope in me. **I am thankful to God for this gift. It is as big as life itself.**" His words resemble those of the prophet Ezekiel in the beautiful passage of the dry bones that emerge (**Ezekiel 37:1-14**): "**Dry bones, hear the word of God," and that ends with the passage: "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live."**

Now **St. Oscar Romero** Archbishop of San Salvador who received the Nobel prize for Peace but was murdered by the army 39 years ago on March 24, 1980, showed in his life how he needed to come out of his tomb, how he needed to be unbound in order to be free. He was a timid, conservative man, seen as allied with the landowners and therefore "safe"; that is why he was chosen as Archbishop in the first place! But he was also honest and willing to follow the Spirit of God. Life with the simple campesinos around him and everyday reality brought him slowly to recognize his own blindness and how he was bound and needed to be set free. He needed to face reality, the reality of the greed, the violence that oppressed the poor of his country. **At last he understood the meaning of his baptism and he recognized the choices before him. He was faced with naming the darkness and then lived as a child of the Light.** Romero preached: "To each one of us Christ is saying: If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do like me. Be converted into a seed that let itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid. Those who shun suffering will remain alone. No one is more alone than the selfish. But if you give your life out of love for others, as I give mine for all, you will reap a great harvest. You will have the deepest satisfactions. Do not fear death or threats. The Lord goes with you. " **In this week's Gospel of the raising of Lazarus, yes, in this week's "Good News", Jesus calls to us "Come out". Jesus calls us, like he called Romero, to recognize what binds and entombs us and to "come out" so as to allow ourselves to be "unbound" by God's love and grace and thus to "go free."** Let us meditate on Romero's hope-filled words: "If we illuminate with hope these longings for justice, peace and goodness that we still have on this earth, they will be realized. Those who have put in their work a feeling of great faith, of love of God, of hope for humility, find all that work now overflowing in the splendors of a crown. Such has been the reward for all those who do work, watering the earth with truth, justice, love and kindness. These deeds are not lost; purified by the spirit of God, their effects are our reward." During these weeks before Easter let us recognize and be thankful once more of what God in Jesus did for each one of us out of love and for what our Risen Lord now calls us to try and live in our daily lives. As long as we try! God will do the rest!

I want to wish you already a truly Holy, life-giving and hope-filled Easter.

Shalom, fr. Rolf, OP



Saanich Peninsula Parish

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

Parish office: 10030 Third St, Sidney

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Pastor: Fr. Rolf Hasenack, O.P.

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Mailing address: 10030 Third St, Sidney, V8L 3B3

Rectory: 250-652-1557

Web site: www.spparish.com

Parish Office Coordinator: Melanie Ehrlich

Parish Council Chair: Mary McGovern

SUNDAY EUCHARIST at ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am.

at OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Daily at St. Elizabeth's: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am

Third Friday: 9:00 am at the Legion Manor, 7601 East Saanich Road, Saanichton

Last Friday: 11:00 am in the Chapel at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Remaining Fridays: 9:00 am in a private home (for location see "This Week in Our Parish" ...)

RECONCILIATION at ST. ELIZABETH'S: Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

APR. 7, 2019

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

Psalm 126: The Lord
has done great things for
us; we are filled with joy.



APR. 14, 2019

PASSION SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-7

Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Psalm 22: My God, my
God, why have you
forsaken me?



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 ___

IN OUR PARISH COLLECTION

March Total	\$16,044
Pre-Authorized Debits (Apr.)	\$ 5,055
Monthly Target	\$ 25,000

We offer our condolences to the family and pray for the soul of Jack Ondecoul.

SHARE LENT: SHARE THE JOURNEY

Solidarity Sunday, the **Share Lent collection** is taken. Your donation will help our sisters and brothers across the world. Thank you for helping us build a world of peace and justice; no one will be forced to flee their home! devp.org/give.

HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT: SUNDAY APRIL 7 AFTER 10:30 MASS

All parishioners working in health care - nurses, staff, healthcare workers, and volunteers are invited to get together to support and share concerns about MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying): St. Elizabeth's Sun. Apr. 7 after Mass.

CWL GUEST SPEAKER: APR. 9

Tues. Apr. 9, 2 pm, the CWL will host Lori Campbell from Beacon Community Services. She will be presenting a "Neighbourhood Chat" about the services Beacon offers to seniors living on their own in the community. All are welcome

MARRIAGE ANNULMENT INFO SESSION: APR. 9

The Annulment Process: presented by Louis Melendez, M.Ed., Assistant to the Judicial Vicar at the Diocese of Victoria. Open to all who have an interest in the subject. Tues. Apr. 9, 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Parish (enter at office). 4635 Elk Lake Drive. Call 250-479-1331, ext. 237 or e-mail marriage tribunal@rcdvictoria.org to register.

DYSPHASIA WORKSHOP: APR. 10

Wed. Apr. 10, 1 pm, at St. Elizabeth's, Cynthia Tandy presents an awareness presentation about Dysphasia (difficulty with swallowing/eating).

CHRISM MASS: APR. 11 AT CATHEDRAL

On Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 pm Bishop Gary Gordon is the principal celebrant at the annual Chrism Mass at which the oils that will be used in our parishes in the coming year are blessed and consecrated. **All are invited to attend. A reception will follow.**

NEXT 2 WEEKS IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, APR. 8 & 15	
1:00 pm	Faith Reflection
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
TUESDAY, APR. 9 & 16	
9:00 am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30 am	Friendly Hours Luncheon
2:00 pm	C.W.L. General Mtg. (Apr. 9)
7:30 pm	K of C General Mtg. (Apr. 16)
WEDNESDAY, APR. 10 & 17	
9:00 am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's
9:30 am	Eucharistic Adoration
10:00 am	Taiji Qigong (Apr. 10)
1:00 pm	Dysphasia Awareness (Apr. 10)
THURSDAY, APR. 11 & 18	
9:00 am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's (Apr. 11)
11:30 am	Friendly Hours Luncheon
2:00 pm	Prayer Group
6:00 pm	Taiji Qigong (Apr. 11)
7:00 pm	Holy Thursday Mass (Apr. 18)
FRIDAY, APR. 12 & 19	
9:00 am	Mass at the Legion (Apr. 12)
10:00 am	Stations of the Cross Walk (Apr. 19)
3:00 pm	Passion of our Lord (Apr. 19)
SATURDAY, APR. 13 & 20	
4:00 pm	Confessions
5:00 pm	Mass at St. Elizabeth's (Apr. 13)
8:00 pm	Easter Vigil (Apr. 20)
SUNDAY, APR. 14 & 21	
8:30 am	Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption
10:30 am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
11:30 am	Samahan Fellowship (Apr. 14)

For the latest schedule see tinyurl.com/sppcal

HOLY WEEK CATHOLIC MISSION ON TV

This year's Mission theme is **Sin, Forgiveness & Reconciliation**. Part 1: The Penitential Psalms, Part 2: Conscience & Reconciliation on **Vision TV**; Apr. 15 & 16: 5pm, **Salt & Light TV**; Apr. 16 & 17, 5 pm, **Joy TV**; Apr. 15 & 16, 8:30 pm. This year's mission leader is Cardinal Thomas Collins.

OUR PARISH AGM WILL BE ON SUNDAY APRIL 28TH AFTER THE 10:30AM MASS.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALK

Joined in covenant with St. Stephen's Anglican let us walk together the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning at 10:00 am. Prayer walk from St. Stephen's to Our Lady of the Assumption.

CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK/ EASTER WITH S&L TV

Free Preview: April 14 – May 12, 2019. Salt + Light TV is available on a free preview across Canada starting Palm Sunday for live Papal events and a line-up of Catholic programming. Check out S+L's new documentary, *The Francis Impact*, premiering May 5, 5pm PST. <https://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=90258>. Shaw cable channel 160. Telus cable channel 873. Check your local provider or visit www.saltandlighttv.org/subscribe

PASSION & TENDERNESS CONCERT: APR. 12

At 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's, Sidney Classical Orchestra. Adult \$25/ Student \$13, Under 19 free.

BISHOP'S FUND RAISING GALA: MAY 4 AT 6:00 PM AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Tickets are \$106.25 per person. **Fr. Rolf reserved a table of 8; contact Melanie at the office 250-656-7433.** Or reserve through EventBrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-bishops-gala-tickets-55161336041>).

UNIVERSAL KINSHIP & THE COMMON GOOD:

Sat. May 4, 9 am to 3:30 pm. St. Joseph's Friary, 1076 Joan Crescent, Victoria. *How to put our faith into practice from the Franciscan perspective of Justice, Peace and Caring for Creation to address present world problems.* Registration fee: \$20.00 beforehand, or \$25.00 at the door. Refreshments available, but please bring your own lunch. Info.: LindaMacGowan, ofs, 250-655-0713 sidxsea@gmail.com; Program Info.: Andrew Conradi, ofs, 778-350-2134, apconradi@telus.net. apconradi@telus.net.

EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT: MAY 4

All are invited to an **Evangelization Summit** on May 4th at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria **8:30 am – 4:00 pm**. This is a day of faith, fellowship and formation. Presenters are streamed from a gathering in Ottawa. Please register **free of charge** at www.newevangelization.ca Bring your own lunch. Contact Glen at gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org for more information.

Holy Week Schedule

SATURDAY, April 13

4:00 pm - Confessions;
5:00 pm - Mass

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY, April 14

8:30 am - Mass at Our Lady of Assumption

10:30 am - Mass at St. Elizabeth's

Monday, April 15 at 7:00 pm
- Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, April 16 at 9:00 am - Mass

Wednesday, April 17 at 9:00 am - Mass

HOLY THURSDAY, April 18

No 9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm - Mass of Lord's Supper
Bring bells & flowers;

Collection for the poor.

Eucharistic Adoration after Mass

GOOD FRIDAY, April 19

10:00 am Stations of the Cross
walk from St. Stephen's Anglican
to Our Lady of the Assumption

3:00 pm - Passion of our Lord
at St. Elizabeth's

HOLY SATURDAY, April 20

3:30 pm - Confessions; No 5:00 pm Mass

8:00 pm - Easter Vigil

Bring bells and a snack to share

EASTER SUNDAY, April 21

8:30 am - Mass at Our Lady of Assumption

10:30 am - Mass at St. Elizabeth's

EASTER MONDAY: April 22: 9 am - Mass

Please bring potted flowers early in the week
- by Holy Thursday or make a donation.

Place your donation in an envelope
marked "FLOWERS".