

All of us who have computers have that experience of having to go to our junk/deleted folder in order to empty it. When we do so it is in an instant that everything is wiped away, gone, forgotten. Well, that is also the theme of both readings this Sunday.

The first reading (**Acts 3:13-15, 17-19**) is from the Book of Acts which is really the second Gospel of Luke in which he recounts the acts of the power of the Spirit. The passage comes after the story (**Acts 3:1-10**) of the healing by Peter and John of a crippled beggar whose condition in Jesus' time was seen as a result of sin. People and the beggar himself understood that he was not just cured but that his sins had been wiped away, gone, forgotten! He could dance, sing and thank God for new life. That is when Peter says to people: you know, Jesus, "the Holy and Righteous One you rejected", the "Author of life", well he can heal you also, forgive your sins also, because he suffered and died for you also, was "raised by God from the dead" for you also; "repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be **wiped out**", gone, forgotten forever! You have new life and hope. The cure of the beggar was proof that in Jesus God had broken forever the crippling effects of sin, "that God fulfilled what he had foretold through the Prophets."

Just like the first reading which needs to be read in the context of what happened before, so this Sunday's Gospel of **Luke 24:35-48** needs to be understood in the context of that powerful story (**Luke 24:13-34**) of the disciples on the road to Emmaus whose hopes had been dashed by Jesus' death: "we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel." **The Scriptures needed to be interpreted for them so that "their eyes were opened" and "they recognized him" in the breaking of the bread.**

Notice how both in his Gospel as well as in Acts Luke emphasizes the role that the Word of God plays in opening the eyes of his disciples and others so that they might discover God and God's ways. The same needs to be true for us in our situation today when we are confused and afraid, when we wonder about God's ways in our life and where God is present in the midst of a seemingly never-ending pandemic.

So again, in appearing to the larger group of disciples and sharing a meal with them, Jesus tells them that "everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" and he gives the reason for his suffering and death: "This it is written, that the Christ is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things (Acts 24: 46-48)." The first message that Jesus wanted preached was about forgiveness and sins being "wiped away, gone, forgotten." It is exactly what Peter was doing in a concrete way to the crowd gathered at the temple around the cured crippled man in Acts.

The community that experiences the risen Lord must not, lock themselves up feeling comfortable in their new faith. They were the first recipients of the healing and forgiveness shown by God in Jesus when he tells them, "Peace be with you"; first recipients of the message that needed to be proclaimed. Jesus sends them to the four corners of the earth to preach forgiveness and healing and to be witnesses of life and hope, to be Easter people. That mandate, that mission, given to the first disciples is also given to us, today's disciples, who are forgiven and healed and told, "Peace be with you." And just as it was only possible for them to take on that mission because of the gift of the Spirit, so we too are assured of the gift of the Spirit which challenges, encourages and strengthens us: "Do not be afraid; I am with you always."

As Easter people we can live and speak forgiveness in whatever situation we find ourselves: in reaching out to an outcast member of a physical or spiritual family; in sharing stories and meals that bring and

hold people together even if we can only do so at a distance; in seeking reconciliation and wiping out painful pasts; in forgiving the shortcomings of parents, of children, of co-workers, etc.

The compassionate and reconciling Christ can only be met through us, through the words we speak and the way we act. It is then that we can be witnesses to a way of life which is different from what people experience all too often in our world: anger and revenge, greed and lust, lies and aggression. It is then that all that is wiped away, forgotten, gone; all the negative and darkness to be replaced with hope of new realities of solidarity, of patient endurance, of mutual support, of companions on the journey of faith.

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

- ***Gordon Hryhoryshen***, who died on April 10, 2021. There will be a funeral at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church in Victoria for the family only.
- ***Ida Amanda Thibault***, who died earlier in April
- ***Fr. Marinaldo Batista***, former pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, who died of Covid19 in Brazil earlier in April
- ***Geraldine Underwood***, who died on Good Friday April 2, 2021
- ***Ursula Lowe***, who died April 7, 2021

**All are welcome to come inside St. Elizabeth's when the doors are unlocked for quiet reflection and prayer. Please maintain protocols.**

**Please, continue to reach out to others by phone, in prayer. Thank you; shalom, fr Rolf, op**

**IS TAKING THE VACCINE MORALLY ETHICAL?**



Who is that masked man??

It's a happy day for the Diocese of Victoria – Bishop Gary received his first Covid-19 vaccine dose this morning! We haven't beat this virus yet, but every time someone gets their shot, we're one step closer to the day when we can get back to the liturgical gatherings, activities, visits and community we've all been missing.

Are you curious about the ethical issues around the Covid-19 vaccine? Is it okay for a Catholic to get vaccinated? The short answer is yes!

Here's a great summary from The Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories: [https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020\\_12\\_02\\_Letter-to-the-faithful-on-Vaccines.pdf](https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020_12_02_Letter-to-the-faithful-on-Vaccines.pdf) [English.pdf](#)

More background from the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CLARIFICATION-CCCB-Statement-on-COVID-19-Vaccine-Choice-9-March-2021-EN.pdf>

And the official word from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith:

[https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20201221\\_nota-vaccini-anticovid\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html)

Please also see this link from the Catholic Bishops of Canada about the expansion of euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada. Bishop Gary hopes you will read this. [Euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide---Message-to-faithful---8-April-2021---EN.pdf](#)

## BC PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS – Please Read

BC Public Health orders of **March 29: all masses are again suspended until further notice in all churches in BC.** You can read the attached memo from the Diocese:

[Memo Update Covid March 29, 2021](#)

You are invited to join on-line celebrations: [Diocese of Victoria's Live Stream](#)

You are welcome to enter the church for prayers during office hours or when the door is open. You must wear a mask and observe social distancing. After much thought we have decided to not hold an outdoor service at this time, given that, we have a vulnerable population and that most people are reluctant to gather at this time. Also the uncertainty of weather forecasts and logistics are difficult to implement. Please remain connected and reach out to others by phone, email etc., and keep everyone and the world present in your prayers. Thank you. May God bless you; may God's face shine upon you and give you peace.

- You are **required to wear a mask** when entering the St. Elizabeth Church in Sidney which is open for individual prayer visits during office hours provided you observe protocols.
- The celebration of **baptisms, weddings and funerals** continue to be possible but with limitations (**10 persons only**) and observance of strict protocols. Outside funerals are allowed with 50 attending.
- If you wish to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)**, please, contact Fr. Rolf at 250-656-7433 to arrange for a day and time.
- The **hospital and home Visiting Ministries** will continue to be by phone or electronically.

Join **Bishop Gary Gordon** for mass, Monday to Friday at 7 PM as well as on Sundays at 10 AM through live stream from the Cathedral. Simply click on: [www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

To keep connected to the various communities in our Diocese, check out the weekly blog's at:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog>

## DONATIONS

If you plan on dropping off or sending your regular weekly offertory envelopes, please try and consolidate your white envelope givings into one cheque and into one envelope, rather than putting your contributions into 3 or 4 separate white envelopes. Our counters appreciate your help!

## E-TRANSFER DONATIONS CAN BE SENT DIRECTLY TO OUR PARISH

Effective immediately, E-Transfer donations can come directly to [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca).

Our bank account is set-up with "**Auto-Deposit**" feature and therefore **we do not require a security question to complete the transfer**. Thank you for all your weekly donations, including Pre-Authorized Debit's (PAD's). Your generosity is helping the Parish to stay afloat.

## TAX SERVICES FOR LOW INCOME

Each year a dedicated team of volunteers offer free income tax preparation for those in need. This is an important community service that ensures everyone receives the supports and programs they are entitled to and can only complete if taxes are completed. Between March 1st and July 30th, you can drop your taxes off between 9-12pm Tuesday to Friday at the Parish Office. Susan Nawrocki from SSVF will pick them up and bring to the SCO office. The preparation will take approximately 3 weeks. If you need this service yourself or someone that could use this service, please note this information and pass it along.

For information visit: <https://www.ssvpvancouverisland.ca/documents/41> Qualifications for the program include: • you are single: you must have earned less than \$35,000 • Couples: you must have earned less than a combined \$45,000 • You cannot have been self-employed or have undergone a bankruptcy, and we cannot prepare returns for deceased persons • No more than 5 years in back-returns will be completed.

## BIRTHRIGHT PLANT SALE

Birthright Victoria is having its annual plant sale online this year. To see photos and descriptions of all the plants and to put in orders go to the Birthright website:

<https://birthrightvictoria.org/garden-babies-for-birthright-plant-sales/>

Pre-paid orders will be transported to the Sidney area in May. Please order by May 8 so you don't miss the delivery date."

## SHARE LOVE, SHARE LENT

Our *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign invited you to open your hearts to loving our most excluded and vulnerable sisters and brothers. And you responded with immense generosity and kindness. Despite facing your own pandemic-related isolation and challenges, you kept a special place in your heart for those in even greater need. We are humbled by your commitment to peace and justice. Remembering the inherent dignity of all human beings, let us heed the Pope's reminder that "justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day." (**Fratelli Tutti, 11.**) Click here to watch the video:

<https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove>

To donate directly to the Share Lent 2021 campaign click [Here](#)

**Thanks to a group of generous religious communities, there's no better time to become a monthly donor! From February 17 to May 23, 2021, new monthly donors will see their contributions matched for a year, dollar-for-dollar, up to a maximum of \$130,000.**

If you're already part of our Share Year-Round program, you can also take advantage of this special fund by calling toll free: **1-888-234-8533** to increase your monthly gift!

**Your monthly contribution ensures our partners can support marginalized communities in their search for justice** and adapt to new challenges like COVID-19. A one-time gift online also supports our long-term development programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)

## PRAYING THE ROSARY VIA ZOOM

The Rosary will be continuing on Wednesdays through Lent. CWL invites you to join their weekly Rosary on Wednesdays at 9:30am; hosted via Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84574603894?pwd=SXFIVUtScm82Vm93L09FaTdTZFQ3dz09> Meeting ID: 845 7460 3894 Passcode: CWL;

## K of C STATE BURSARY 2021

Hello All [Grads and Post Secondary Students](#), once more the Knights of Columbus are offering multiple student Bursaries of **\$1000** to those in a registered Post-Secondary institute in BC for the fall.

An application package needs to be requested by you, completed and sent to [Kof C before June 30](#). There are some basic steps to doing this as outlined in the package.

Email Roy Battilana at: [battilana@telus.net](mailto:battilana@telus.net) for the link and a copy of the PDF package

## ZOOM PRESENTATION OFFERED BY THE K of C – APRIL 28

The Knights of Columbus is proud to announce our professional speaker series featuring Jim Ruta. All are welcome to this event where he will discuss How to Eliminate Essential Financial Insecurity in the Pandemic. These presentations will be offered on Zoom. **Please register today** for the following:

*How to Eliminate Essential Financial Insecurity in the Pandemic (60 Mins)*

Western Canada - **Wednesday April 28th, 2021 at 6:00 pm PST/7:00 pm PDT**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0MvBuO2fSU28PATkKN8DZw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0MvBuO2fSU28PATkKN8DZw)

## SPRING 50/50, K of C CHARITY LOTTERY!

**We are just past the HALFWAY POINT!!** The "POT" continues to grow! The more tickets you purchase, the better your odds of winning and the BIGGER THE POT. **We are currently near the \$36,000 mark** and growing steadily. The lucky winner would get half that if the draw was held now. Our goal is to give the winner \$50,000, so we have a little way to go yet. Purchase your tickets soon! The more tickets purchased the bigger the prize, click here to: [Buy Today!](#) **Draw is April 30th, 2021**

## EASTER GREETINGS FROM TIMOR LESTE AND THEN A TYPHOON !!

"Dear Fr. Rolf,

Warm Greetings from Timor Leste (East Timor)! How are you? How is the situation there? We are lockdown here in East Timor from the first week of March till April 2 supposed to be but it was extended until May 2. Every day new cases are found. But the lockdown is only in Dili, Baucau, Viqueque. And so we are just at home. It's hard to go out because there are no public transportations.

The young people are having formation on writing autobiography, stories etc. Aside from this they learn sewing and studying mathematics, Portuguese, English.

We wish you a fruitful Holy Week and a joyful Resurrection. May Jesus' resurrection strengthen us and deepen our faith in the midst of this difficult situation. Keep safe and extend our Easter greetings to your parishioners from the Dominican Sisters community and children in the orphanage.

Enclosed is a collage of the children's activities at home during this time of lockdown."



**Unfortunately, just a week later on Easter Monday, a new message with pictures:**

“Dear Fr. Rolf,

Happy Easter. Hope you are fine in spite of the situation of Covid.

I told you before that we are lock down because of Covid ; added to that is the floods that caused a big damage to East Timor. Many died and no houses. The orphanage and our formation house we used for our life skill training are not excluded (from the damage)

The fence of the orphanage was damage due to soil erosion. The tank of water almost went with the fence. The ceiling of the chapel fell down too. This is how we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus. We just remember how he suffered more than our suffering during the flood and after. I show you some pictures.

Thank you Fr. Rolf.

Best regards.

Sr. Belen”



In January of this year, I sent \$4,000 USD (\$5,250 CDN) for their life skills training program. On April 15, Sr. Belen sent an email confirming receipt of another \$4,000 USD (\$5,229 CDN) which I sent April 9 to help in the clean up and repairs needed as well as to continue their life skills training of young people in Dili, Timor Leste. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year. Fr. Rolf, OP.