

Dear members of our faith community;

September 6, 2020

This past week the media related how some of the Provincial Public Health Directors like ours here in B.C., Dr. Henry, were suddenly being criticized. The heroes of yesterday were now not looking after the critics' interests, even though the Directors said that their revised directives were in the interest of the larger community. We find a somewhat similar story in this weekend's readings of **Ezekiel 33:7-9** and **Matthew:18:15-20**.

Ezekiel is called "a watchman for the house of Israel", someone who in times of danger needs to speak the words of truth, bring people back to their senses and strengthen the hope of the downcast. In this passage of Ezekiel his sobering message is a wake-up call from God, a gift of grace veiled in the language of a warning. Well, that is the vocation of a true shepherd leading people on the right path. Wouldn't it be more productive for all of us if we could try and accept graciously some of the directives or changes which we are faced with in these uncertain times? It does not mean that I need to agree with everything or that I might not have another valid opinion, but could it maybe that this is an occasion for me to expand my horizon and consider it as possibly good for my own interest because it is in the interest of the common good?

Ezekiel in his time; others in our own time are called to speak sometimes an uncomfortable word to people; that's the way God works sometimes in our lives. We personally may be called to be a warning watchman to those who are not facing their responsibilities as spouses, or as children of aging parents or as civic and religious leaders. We may be called to undertake a difficult "sensitive conversation" with someone who has become dependent on negative influences in their lives (drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex, crime, etc.). Matthew's gospel message doesn't let us off the hook. Each one of us has to carry on our shoulders the responsibility to work for the common good, for the well-being of our faith community as well as of the larger human community.

In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus instructs, not just the leaders of the community, but all of us to address wrongs in the community through a respectful, charitable process. For Matthew unity and faithfulness to the teachings of Jesus on the part of all members were essential elements of a witnessing and supportive community. But Jesus wasn't just talking about individual failures and offenses (sins) and faithfulness to the spirit of his Gospel teaching. It is very clear that Jesus also speaks of our individual participation in the collective failures and offenses of the larger community.

That is why we need to see the importance of and put more emphasis on our sins of omission. Do I try to consider the interests of others and the common good? I may not be a racist but what am I doing to identify and work towards the eradication of racism in our institutions and in our communities? What can I do personally and what can I do to make sure that no one in my parish is being treated as second class members just because they are new arrivals? What can I do so that the voices of others, especially the voiceless, are being heard, respected and acted upon?

I am sure you can add other questions!

***Shalom, fr. Rolf OP***

## Helping young women in Timor Leste

Over the past 2 months, Fr. Rolf has sent approx. \$10,000 to the Dominican Sisters in Timor Leste to support young women with Life Skills Training in Dili, Timor Leste. Here is a letter of thanks from one of their graduates:

“This course is training for us, youth. My name is Cidalia do Carmo from the Dominican Orphanage. I see this Life Skills Training as very important for our future.

We started the Life Skills Training Course last June 16, 2020 times when the government of East Timor declared once again that the State of Emergency will continue and schools were not yet stable. This is really very helpful for us because we learned many things when we were just in the orphanage.

We ended this Life Skills Training Course with a closing Ceremony. And we received Completion Certificate last August 15, 2020,

We named our group “TAU LIMAN HAMUTUK” meaning “Joining our Hands Together, we can do many things. With a grateful and joyful heart, I thank our sponsors who made this Vocational Course possible, Fr. Rolf, O.P. and his parishioners in the Catholic Church in Canada. In the same way, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our trainer, Ms. Zocema Almendras, and Sr. Evangelina, O.P. (Belen) who worked hard so that we may really learn And to the Dominican Community, Thank you. But most of all my gratitude to God for this blessing. This Life Skills Training capacitate us for a better future through the small business especially the youth who have no opportunity to go to the university because of financial difficulty like us in the orphanage but by knowing how to apply this, we can pursue our education until we finished college. The benefits of this program for us : through this program, we experienced how to use and promote our own local products by transforming them into commercial products. Future dream: With the group, if we succeed in the skills we learned, I would like to create jobs for the youth including mothers who are jobless to augment their family income and in this way, we also support our government to reduce unemployment. Please pray for us!”

Cidalia do Carmo



**In a previous week's message we asked you: "ANY IDEAS ?"**

**We will continue to be in some type of "pandemic mode" for the foreseeable future. Your Parish Council on Wedn. Aug. 19 had a general discussion re: how our fall and winter might look like. In a time of continued isolation and of very limited social celebrations we want to make sure that we are in touch with each other, that we celebrate together our faith and that we reach out to those who are unable to leave the place where they live.**

- 1) Some of the musicians are exploring what equipment is needed to **Video livestream** one Sunday Eucharist Celebration. Such livestreaming must show a community celebrating. **If you have a technology background and expertise in this field, please let us know! We need your help!** Once we know the details a decision will be made in September.
- 2) The **Religious Formation** program for children cannot continue in the traditional way because of Covid-19 restrictions. So, **beginning on Saturday Oct. 3 at 3:00 pm Fr. Rolf will have a special children's mass for school-age children together with their parents/grandparents.** The same maximum of 50 persons with social distancing will be implemented. If you are interested in helping, including in the provision of music, let us know at 250-656-7433. **If you and your children/grandchildren wish to attend, please let us know ☺; we are already close to the 50 maximum. For the good of all (we all wish to see more young people in church !) those attending now the Sat. 3:00 pm mass will have to move to one of the other weekend masses. Sorry, no other way!**
- 3) We would like to expand the use of live-music for the five weekend masses.
- 4) Melanie has developed a "**Saanich Peninsula Parish**" profile on **Facebook**, which we hope will enable parishioners to ask questions, discuss issues, provide news, all for the spiritual wellbeing of parishioners. We invite those of you who are Facebook users to join this **Private group!** Look for the profile that shows our stained glass window!
- 5) Some volunteers with **Friendly Hours** are meeting on **Sept. 9** to develop a program which will meet the public health requirements and involve minimum person-to-person contact.
- 6) At the beginning of the pandemic back in March we asked that you try on a regular basis to contact members of our faith community on the phone or by e-mail. Thanks to all of you who are doing this already. We would like to expand considerably this "Calling Bee" so that more people are involved; support /training will be provided if desired.
- 7) The **hospital and home Visiting Ministries** will continue to be by phone or electronically.
- 8) We are exploring how **some in-person meetings** (Adult Faith formation, Prayer groups, AA, NA, CWL, K of C etc.) could be restarted under strict health regulations. **Right now these are not permitted. Please, let us know your ideas and suggestions at 250-656-7433. Thank you,**

**Shalom, fr. Rolf, OP**

## Mass Registration & Reminders

Here are some Mass Registration and other guidelines to follow that will help us:

- Continue to let the Parish Office know by **Thursday at noon** if you wish to attend an available mass time. Call 250-656-7433 or email [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca)
- **Do not substitute your spot for someone else to attend.** We need you to keep your spot for contact tracing.
- **No church hopping.** If you are a member of Saanich Peninsula Parish, you should be staying here. The other churches in the Diocese are doing their part, like us to keep availability to their members.
- If you are absent for **more than 2 weeks and there is no communication to the office**, we will have to remove you from the roster.
- **Please, follow the social/physical distancing and other regulations.** They are for the protection and safety of other people in the community as well as for your own. And remember, other people feel safer when you observe them.
- We thank you for your cooperation, flexibility and understanding.

### Summary:

There are now 5 Sunday Masses, all at St. Elizabeth's:

- **Friday 10:00 am Mass** *Please, remember that during this pandemic time such a weekday Mass is considered to be **your** Sunday Mass.*
- **Saturday 3:00 pm Mass**
- **Saturday 5:00 pm Mass (Full)**
- **Sunday 8:30 am Mass**
- **Sunday 10:30 am Mass (Full)**
- Sunday 1:00 pm Mass in French at St. Jean-Baptiste in Victoria

As a reminder, we are still unable to gather at Our Lady of the Assumption and there are no weekday masses at St. Elizabeth's.

Aside from sacramental ministry, all "in person" meetings/gatherings of various groups and organizations remain suspended, until further notice.

### Due to Covid-19 some special collections will now take place this fall:

Support for Church in the Holy Land (usually Good Friday): next Sunday Sept. 13

Needs of the Church in Canada: Sunday September 27

Pope's Pastoral Works (normally in May): Sunday October 4

Evangelization of Nations (World Mission Sunday): Sunday October 18

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

**• Jerry Scollard who died on August 25**

The family of Jerry have decided not to have a funeral service right now. We will keep you apprised if they do. Here is a message from the Scollard family:

“Jerold Francis Scollard, a beloved parishioner of St. Elizabeth’s since 1989, passed away peacefully on August 25, 2020. He had a ready smile for all. Jerry was a man of deep faith, a poet, an eagle scout, ran a family business for almost 30 years, a reflexologist, real estate developer and a long-term member of Knights of Columbus. He was known for his grateful, kind and generous heart, courage and tenacity even in the face of long-term health challenges. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sandy Scollard and his children in the Washington State: Gina Scollard and Eric Scollard along with Eric’s wife, Jil and their three sons Clay, Kirk and Kent. The Scollard family would like to thank all at St. Elizabeth’s Parish, and the Knight of Columbus for making Jerry’s life richer.”

**DO NOT DROP-OFF ITEMS AT THE CHURCH**

Due to Covid19, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is not picking up clothing, books, housewares or garden items etc. of any kind from our church. Please do not drop off/leave any items at the church either outside or inside! You will need to look for alternative means of donating your items. ***Our library is also not accepting books during this time.***

**Birthright Strollerthon Sept 19th**

The Lally family will be walking in Birthright’s Annual Strollerthon on **Saturday, September 19**. Due to COVID concerns, pledges will be handled differently this year. If you would like to sponsor them and support the pro-life, crisis pregnancy service of Birthright, you can leave your **donation in an envelope clearly marked “Birthright”** in the Birthright-labeled basket at the back of the Church or in the parish mail slot. Please include your full name and address if you would like to receive a charitable receipt. **Cheques should be made payable to “Birthright Victoria”**.



## OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Thanks to all who have continued your weekly donations including the Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD's) and E-Transfers. This helps us to stay afloat and to keep our staff. If you wish to send via E-Transfer, you can do so directly to the Diocesan Development Office at [developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org). Include your Full name and Parish Name "Saanich Peninsula Parish" in the e-transfer message so it can be passed on to our parish. Let us know at [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca) once completed so we can track it.

**If you give donations for several weeks, could you, please, consolidate them into 1 donation or cheque and place it into 1 envelope.** This helps our counters a great deal! The Diocese and the Parish have received three payments under the "**Canadian Federal Emergency Wage-subsidy**" program (CEWS) for March, April and May. **However, the Diocese and we were not eligible for June. The CEWS program is continuing from July to December with new guidelines but at a much lesser and declining rate.** Please, express our gratitude to our Canadian Government.

## "Walk with Jesus Our Living Hope"

All Catechists, Youth Leaders, Educators, and those interested in these ministries, are invited to a Catechist Retreat Hour+ via ZOOM October 3rd from 9:30am- 11:00am featuring Michael Chiasson from Access52 Ministries <https://access52.com/> Michael will help us renew our hope in these challenging times. He will inspire and share practical ideas for catechesis during COVID 19. Please register by emailing [gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org) Please Join Us!

## FIRE SAFETY PLAN

The Sidney Fire Department requires that we have a Fire Safety Plan on site in order to be compliant with the BC Fire Code (BCFC). We are looking for someone who can assist with drafting this plan. We have a model that you can work from. Please contact the office if you can help at **250-656-7433** email [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca)

## CELEBRATE MASS ONLINE AT ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL IN VICTORIA

Join **Bishop Gary Gordon** and other celebrants 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)

## Island Catholic Schools is accepting applications for the following positions:

- After School Care Worker at St. Patrick's School (Monday–Friday; 2.5 hours per day)
- Full-time, part-time and on-call Ed Assistants for all schools (Victoria)
- On-call Teachers for all schools (Victoria)

Application forms and details are posted at:

<http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>