

# Saanich Peninsula Parish

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

**Our 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.”*

**St. Elizabeth church & parish office:** 10030 Third St, Sidney, V8L 3B3

**Parish office: 250-656-7433 Rectory: 250-652-1557 Fr Rolf cell: 250-652-1990**

**Email:** [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca)

**Web site:** [www.spparish.com](http://www.spparish.com)

**Office hours:** Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Pastor:** Fr. Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **Parish Office Coordinator:** Melanie Ehrlich

**Email:** [rhasenack@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:rhasenack@rcdvictoria.org) **Parish Council Chair:** Mary McGovern

## SUNDAY EUCHARIST

**ST. ELIZABETH'S**, 10030 Third Street, Sidney: **Sat. 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:30 am.**

**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**, 7742 West Saanich Rd.: **Sunday 8:30 am.**

## WEEKDAY MASSES

**AT ST. ELIZABETH'S:** Tues., Wedn., Thurs. and first Friday of the month: 9:00 am

**RECONCILIATION at ST. ELIZABETH'S:** Saturdays 4 – 4:30 pm or by appointment.

**Dear members of our faith community;**

**Pastor's corner – August 7, 2022**

We can be very thankful that Pope Francis was able to visit Canada in order to personally apologize in heartfelt and sincere words and gestures for the role that the Catholic Church played in the Canadian Government's assimilation policies and residential school system. He and his predecessors have done so in a number of countries in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, where indigenous peoples suffered the same fate from colonialist attitudes and government systems.

Some people have called for the abolition of the “Doctrine of Discovery”, an old 1493 church document which really was abrogated soon after and replaced with different teachings. Please, follow this link which brings you to a 15-page document on the official 2016 Catholic Response (signed by the CCCB, the CRC and D&P) and to a historical overview of both this Doctrine of Discovery as well as to the concept of Terra Nullius: [Terra Nullius](#)

Here are just a few thoughts.

Throughout Christian history tension has existed between Church and State both worldwide as well as in individual countries. The present age is not any different. When we look at history we see that Christian missionaries were often in conflict with the supposedly “Christian” governments and commercial interests and greed of their own nations. While it is true that terrible injustices and atrocities were committed by some Christians there were also important voices within the Church in defence of the dignity of Indigenous peoples and their cultures. Yes, we need to recognize that in the forced residential school system we participated here in Canada in what Pope Francis has called “cultural genocide”, Canadian government assimilation policies which destroyed indigenous cultures and traditions. We also need to note that religious women and men, lay people and priests were at times instrumental in preserving culture and language, adapting liturgies, writing dictionaries of local languages, etc.

Among the voices over the centuries there were the Dominicans who had arrived in 1510 in today's Santo Domingo on the island of Hispaniola (today's Dominican Republic and Haiti). Under their prior Antonio de Montesinos they decided, as a community, to defend the dignity of each human being and against the brutal treatment and enslavement of the local indigenous, *"to preach from the pulpit and in public that to oppress Indians was to go straight to Hell."* On Sunday Dec. 4, 1511 Montesinos preached on Matthew 5:3 *"I am a voice crying out in the wilderness"*, challenging the Spanish congregation to change their ways: *"Are they not men? Have they not rational souls? Are you not bound to love them as you love yourself?"* Bartolome De Las Casas (1484-1566), a secular priest and slave and land owner in the congregation, saw the evil he was committing, freed the slaves, and became a Dominican. He later wrote: *"What we committed in the Indies stands out among the most unpardonable offenses ever committed against God and mankind and this trade [in Indian slaves] as one of the most unjust, evil, and cruel among them."* Together with others he was instrumental in having Pope Paul III declare in 1537 in "Sublimus Deus": *"The said Indians (name used at that time) and all other people who may later be discovered by Christians, are by no means to be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property, even though they be outside the faith of Jesus Christ; and that they may and should, freely and legitimately, enjoy their liberty and the possession of their property; nor should they be in any way enslaved; should the contrary happen, it shall be null and have no effect."*

After having initially been rebuked and silenced by the King of Spain, De Las Casas, together with other missionaries, persuaded King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella of Spain to pass laws ( "New Laws of Burgos" – 1542) freeing from slavery and protecting Indigenous peoples. Unfortunately, these laws were mostly ignored by the conquistadores and Europeans in the colonies of the new world and even caused civil wars. With the legal and theological support of the Dominican School of Salamanca with Francisco de Vitoria, De Las Casas wrote in 1552 "In Defense of the Indians", a work, which among others, laid the foundations of the eventual Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

### [HELP WANTED! CAN YOU RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?](#)

~ We need someone who can tend to our garden beds at St. Elizabeth's. This would only be once a month! The tasks include watering and weeding. We wish to thank Denis Turgeon who took on this role after Gary & Lucy Clark who returned to Saskatchewan: however due to health constraints he is unable to continue.



### [SURFING WITH THE SPIRIT – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL](#)

Carla Fretwell is trying to organize a special summer fun program for children called "Surfing with the (Holy) Spirit" from Mon. Aug. 29 – Fri. Sept. 2. She will need help from adults and teen volunteers. Call her at 250-655-4159. Registration forms are in the foyer.

[Click Here for August 7, 2022 Children's Liturgy](#)



### [THANK YOU – WE REACHED OUR GOAL OF \\$ 20K!](#)

**The total funds raised for Ukraine relief was \$20,338!! Amazing achievement!!**  
**In order to meet Canada Revenue rules which require us to give it to a Canadian charity dealing directly with Ukraine we have send the money to Development and Peace (Caritas Canada) who will send the money to Caritas-Spes, an NGO of the RC Church in Ukraine.**

## **PASTORAL OUTREACH TRAINING: Register by September 20**

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this fall. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, from **Sept. 24, 2022, and running until Nov. 26** (no session on Oct. 8 for Thanksgiving). Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet, or smartphone with speakers, microphone, and webcam, and a reliable Internet connection. Previous graduates have commented: *“Loved every minute of it! I would mark all nine session evaluations as EXTREMELY WELL!! The sessions were rich in the information presented and methods of delivery and discussion. I have appreciated these classes and the beautiful warm-hearted people I have met here. It was very motivating and the presentations were excellent. I have learned so much on this journey.”* **Please register through your local parish (656-7433) by Sept. 20.** For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca)

## **PARISH FINANCES**

**Three major repair works will be carried out at St. Elizabeth. After about 10 years usage one of the two heat pumps on the roof is being replaced at a cost of \$ 6,738.00 plus GST.**

**A major drainage problem in the northern driveway just before you drive onto the street (please, observe the stop sign !), which caused flooding last November in our driveway and heating ducts, was repaired by Earthservice Drainmaster and the City of Sidney. The bill (\$8,987.01) was less than expected. Thank you to Michael Kipot for his advice and for overseeing the project.**

**We are evaluating estimates to repair and paint the outside wood around the church building.**

**We are all affected by the higher cost of living especially those who are on a fixed income; the parish is also. As you well know a five or ten dollar bill is worth only a fraction of what it used to be ten or even five years ago. If at all possible we would like to continue to be able to reach out and support the several local and international communities who are much more in need than we are and whom we have helped for a number of years in their essential educational and formation needs.**

**Please, remember that our Parish’s financial needs and costs are the same whether you are there on the weekend or not. The Parish thanks you for continuing and/or possibly increasing your weekly/monthly donations. Your generosity is helping the Parish to pay its bills and to continue to help people in need. Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Elizabeth’s have both received permissible tax exemptions over the years. We wish to acknowledge and thank the District of Central Saanich and the Town of Sidney and hope they will provide us these grants again next year. We continue to pay municipal taxes on the rectory.**

## **DONATIONS TO OUR PARISH**

Our Canadian tax system allows you to reduce your taxes if you donate to churches. In this way you are encouraged to be generous so that the services provided will continue and grow. There are several ways that you can contribute while receiving a tax receipt. To receive a box of **weekly offertory** envelopes please contact the Parish Office.

Please, consider giving through the **monthly PAD Program “pre-authorized debit”**, which can be arranged through the office; **the PADs help to stabilize parish income.**

**E-Transfer** donations can come directly to [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca) . Our account is set-up with “**Auto-Deposit**” feature. A humble request to those using envelopes: please, if you are giving for several weeks, put the combined donations into **one** envelope. Also, please, do not fold your bills before putting them in the envelopes and do not use tape to close the envelope. All this assists the work of the counters. Thank you.