

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

Web site: 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 **Parish Council Chair:** Mary McGovern

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

ST. ELIZABETH'S, 10030 Third Street, Sidney: **Sat. 4:30 pm and Sunday 10:30 am.**

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, 7742 West Saanich Rd.: **Mass suspended temporarily**

WEEKDAY MASSES

AT ST. ELIZABETH'S: Tues., Wed., Thurs. & first Friday of the month: 9:00 am

RECONCILIATION at ST. ELIZABETH'S: Saturdays 3:30 – 4:00 pm or by appointment.

NEXT WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SATURDAY, May 27

3:30 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth

SUNDAY, May 28

10:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth

11:30 am K of C pancake breakfast

TUESDAY, May 30

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth

WEDNESDAY, May 31

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth

10:00 am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, June 1

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth

FRIDAY, June 2

9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth

SATURDAY, June 3

3:30 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth

Bishop's Pentecost 2023 Message

Dear People of God,

At the first Pentecost, the fire of the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, igniting their hearts and their lives with joy, thrusting them outwards into a profound encounter with the world and all creation.

In our days we can see the Holy Spirit still at work in the world, and in a very special way in the journey of Synod 2021-2024.

The whole People of God have been called to walk together as the Holy Spirit helps us to discern the Lord's will for his Church.

In the results of Synod 2021-2024 so far, a recurring theme is joy – the joy of our faith, and the joy of having opportunities for sharing, listening, and discernment in a space of encounter and mutual listening that incorporates the gifts of all the baptized.

As Synod 2021-2024 continues its journey, I am pleased to announce the establishment of a Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod (DPPS) here in the Diocese of Victoria. The DPPS will allow us to continue our journey on the road of Communion, Participation, and Mission, and help us to "enlarge the space of our tent" (Isa 54.2), as Pope Francis has challenged us to do.

From Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023, until Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, each pastor/pastoral administrator with their parish will be asked to choose one or two Local Listening Facilitators. These people will be provided with training and guidance in the skills of listening and creating safe environments to ensure healthy dialogue.

Near the Feast of Christ the King, November 24, 2024, a Local Listening Facilitator from each parish will meet in plenary, in person and/or online, with the Bishop's Advisory Council and the Priests' Council to discern a set of

questions to be explored. Over the following months, the Local Listening Facilitators will hold Listening Circles in their parishes and the wider community to discuss the questions that were chosen.

During the time of Pentecost 2025, a Local Listening Facilitator from each parish will meet in plenary with all clergy, pastoral administrators, and Diocesan leadership committees: the Bishop's Advisory Council; the Diocesan Finance Committee; the Diocesan Liturgical Commission; the Diocesan Health Care Committee; and the Island Catholic School Board. The group will listen and reflect on the results of the local Listening Circles, and the results of this meeting will inform planning and actions at both the Parish and the Diocesan level. The DPPS cycle will then begin again with another Local Listening Facilitator plenary before Advent 2025.

I am inspired by the wisdom that has been shared in Synod 2021-2024 so far, and am confident the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us as we establish a Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod in the Diocese of Victoria. I pray the DPPS will unite us in a true communion and inspire us to participation in the mission of Christ:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Lk 4:18-19) Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria

Please click here for the Synod handout: [Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod](#)

Pastor's corner : Ascension and Pentecost May 21 & 28, 2023

There are a number of feast days which we celebrate with wonderful music, great liturgies, good food and great company. I am sure we can all name them: Christmas, New Year's, Easter, the baptisms of our children/grandchildren. And then there are those other feast days which in our consumer world take on ever greater dimensions: Valentine's Halloween, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversaries, etc. All these feast days are celebrated with their holidays, their gifts and cards, with special flowers and balloons, specialized food, etc.

Well, there is another very important and great feast day which so far has escaped the consumer mentality but which for us Christians is really as great a feast day as are Christmas and Easter: yes, Pentecost! **Just as Christmas would have no meaning without Easter and vice versa, so the Ascension and Pentecost are an inevitable outcome of Christmas and Easter. They are all linked and very important.**

Easter was the celebration of the highlight of our faith: in Jesus God became flesh and lived within our human existence. Jesus tried to tell us who God is for us. Jesus' whole life, his words and his actions revealed to all of humanity the incomprehensible, illogical and irrepressible love of God for all of humanity. In Jesus, we learned that God loves us as brother, as father, as sister, as mother. God's love, God's mercy and healing, God's wisdom and strength became real, became flesh in Jesus and were present in our midst. And all this so that Jesus might by his suffering and death free us from all that binds and oppresses us and bring us "home" to God. At the feast of the Ascension we celebrate that the Christ event came full circle and that the risen Lord, born the vulnerable babe in Bethlehem, has gone home to God and glory after a full life of joys and pains, struggles and hopes. The feast of the Ascension is a reminder to us that we too are destined to go home and live in the glory of God, that **we might become sharers in God's divinity.**

Jesus the anointed one needed to leave us. Why? Well, Jesus himself gives us a response. In the Gospel of John Jesus will say that he has lost nothing of what the Father had given him. Jesus is not returning to God and glory empty-handed! Jesus has taken with him everything that is ours. He has taken us with him because he loved us so intensely, so closely that we could not possibly be separated from him! God remains close to the ones he loves, to all of us. How? By the gift of the Holy Spirit: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him/her to you (**John 16:7-8**)." This Spirit God is already in us!

It took a while for the first disciples of Jesus to understand that the physical presence of Jesus in their lives would continue with the greatest gift that Jesus could give them: the Spirit of God which had encouraged him in his life and which raised him from death. At first they were frightened, confused at the loss of their beloved Jesus but then God again took the initiative and the gift of the Spirit overpowered their fear and paralysis and empowered them to become messengers of the good news by their words and actions. The power of the Spirit had no limits in them and now in us.

Yes, the Spirit is here in us and yet not fully here. When Jesus' Spirit is in us, then we are the Lord's and he is ours. And yet, there is still the pain of waiting for the Spirit's fulfillment in eternal life, the pain of hope not completely fulfilled, the pain of a pilgrimage not ended. But we do not look up toward heaven or to the future like the men of Galilee in **Acts 1:10**: "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" We are called to keep our eyes fixed on the present. We are called in our daily lives to make real among us the "first fruits" of the gift of the Spirit in us. **Karl Rahner** in his book "The Content of Faith" tried to explain this paradox of the already here and the not yet by writing: "When the Spirit performs the miracle of faithfulness and courage in our poor lives from day to day, there is the Spirit of Christ. And where the Spirit of Christ is present, the true festival of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated."

Let us today pray that we may come to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism and renewed especially at Pentecost. Already described in **Isaiah 11:2-3**, these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are later described by Saint Ambrose as poured out on a believer at baptism and confirmation as being: **Spirit of Wisdom; Spirit of Understanding; Spirit of Counsel; Spirit of Strength /courage, Spirit of Knowledge; Spirit of Godliness /reverence; Spirit of Holy Fear / awe and wonder.** Let us pray that we may once more receive these seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and that our daily lives may bear it's fruits described in **Galatians 5: 22-23** as being: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." I think we can all agree that we and our world need to strengthen these fruits of the Spirit both personally and collectively so that this world might be a better place. Shalom, Fr. Rolf, OP

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer,

visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call
1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit
BishopReportingSystem.ca or call
1-866-892-3737

CHURCH RENOVATION: COLOUR

The necessary building renovations that were mentioned in previous bulletins at St. Elizabeth's will begin sometime in June or July. We would like your feedback on the colour for the upper envelope of the exterior of the church. The cedar boards will be replaced with hardy plank (concrete board) pre-painted (baked on colour) at the factory. Below are side-by-side depictions of two options; taupe or blue.

Before deciding, we would like you to indicate your preference. We have placed images in the lobby of the church: please, check mark your preference or feel free to email the parish at spparish@shaw.ca of your colour preference. Please note that the colours shown are not exactly what it will look like in the end.

BLUE or **TAUPE**



KIDS CORNER !! [Click Here for May 28, 2023 Children's Liturgy](#)

FOOD FOR FAMILIES: MAY 27 & 28

The Knights of Columbus are collecting donations of food and funds at the Masses on May 27 & 28. Many in our community are struggling through hardship and unable to provide for their families. Food for Families help ensure that as few possible go hungry. Your help is appreciated!

FILIPINO LUNCH: JUNE 11 after the 10:30am Mass

On Sunday June 11, the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Philippines' inspired lunch after the 10:30 mass. This will be a by donation lunch cooked by Judith Asence and her friends. This is an opportunity for the parish to recognise this particular community that is a vital part of our parish. Please attend and know that any funds raised will be donated to a Philippines based charity with a top up from the Knights of Columbus.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE POT LUCK: JUNE 6

Development and Peace is hosting an inter-parish pot luck social on Tues. June 6 at Sacred Heart Church Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm. Bring a contribution of entrée, salad or dessert; beverages provided. RSVP to 250-477-6952 or Nancy-stuart@shaw.ca. If you have an interest in social justice issues, please join us for a meal and fellowship.

SURVEY REGARDING THE DIOCESAN APPEAL

The Diocese of Victoria Development Office has created a survey to collect information about the 2022 Bishop's Appeal: *Growing Together* from parishioners. Please read the Bishop's letter and if you wish to complete the survey you will also find it within the following link: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/growing-together-2022>). The survey closes on June 12th. The valuable input from this survey will help the Diocese plan for future Appeals.

NEWS from the DIOCESE:

The **Diocesan Family Camp & Conference** will be held on August 17th – 20th. Registration is open for all families in the Diocese of Victoria and beyond. For more info and to register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-diocesan-familyconference-august-2023-tickets-593430365197>

Roots of Reconciliation May 29 – June 1 at Holy Cross Parish in Victoria from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm each day: a four-day workshop along the Returning to Spirit reconciliation model (<https://www.returningtospirit.org/>). Insights developed during the workshop create space for participants to discover how previously-held behaviours, judgement, assumptions or perceptions have kept them stuck in a disempowering story. This is for you if you want to explore your own assumptions, judgements and behaviours

To register and for info visit <https://www.returningtospirit.org/workshopcalendar>, email info@returningtospirit.org, or call 204-889-4579 or 1-855-244-3963. Participate in this powerful and potentially life-transforming experience!

Rachel's Vineyard will be hosting their first retreat on Vancouver Island from Aug. 25-27 at the Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo (2371 Arbot Rd). This ministry is a safe place for people to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing. For info contact Nicola at: rachelvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com