

Pastor's corner – March 9, 2008

Recently I was reading how Pope John Paul II addressed the aboriginal people of Australia on Nov. 29, 1986 at Blatherskite Park, Alice Springs. It recalled the wonderful words he spoke here in Canada in 1984. His remarks still ring true in the many situations we are still facing here in Canada. Some highlights of a much longer address:

“...for thousands of years you have lived in this land and fashioned a culture that endures to this day. And during all this time, the Spirit of God has been with you. Your “Dreaming” which influences your lives so strongly that, no matter what happens, you remain for ever people of your culture, is your own way of touching the mystery of God’s spirit in you and in creation. You must keep your striving for God and hold on to it in your lives....Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost. The Gospel invites you to become, through and through, Aboriginal Christians. It meets your deepest desires.....

As you listen to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, seek out the best things of your traditional ways. If you do, you will come to realize more and more your great human and Christian dignity. Let your minds and hearts be strengthened to begin a new life now. Past hurts cannot be healed by violence, nor are present injustices removed by resentment. Your Christian faith calls you to become the best kind of Aboriginal people you can be. This is possible only if reconciliation and forgiveness are part of your lives. Only then will you find happiness. Only then will you make your best contribution to all your brothers and sisters in this great nation....The Church herself will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.

Among those who have loved and cared for the indigenous people, we especially recall with gratitude all the missionaries of the Christian faith. With immense generosity they gave their lives in service to you and to your forebears. They helped to educate people and offered health and social services. Whatever their human frailty, and whatever mistakes they may have made, nothing can ever minimize the depth of their charity. Nothing can ever cancel out their greatest contribution, which was to proclaim Jesus Christ and to establish his Church in your midst.

From the earliest times (the Church) strongly pleaded for the rights of the Aboriginal inhabitants to keep the traditional lands on which their whole society depended. The Church still supports you today. Let it not be said that the fair and equitable recognition of Aboriginal rights to land is discrimination. To call for the acknowledgment of the land rights of people who have never surrendered those rights is not discrimination. Certainly, what has been done cannot be undone. But what can now be done to remedy the deeds of yesterday must not be put off till tomorrow. ... The establishment of a new society for Aboriginal people cannot go forward without just and mutually recognized agreements with regard to human problems, even though their causes lie in the past. The greatest value to be achieved by such agreements, which must be implemented without causing new injustices, is respect for the dignity and growth of the human person....

Through your closeness to the land you touched the sacredness of man’s relationship with God, for the land was the proof of a power in life greater than yourselves. You realized that your land was related to the source of life. The silence of the Bush taught you a quietness of soul that put you in touch with another world, the world of God’s Spirit.”

Saanich Peninsula Parish



A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Box 2116, Sidney, BC, V8L 3S6 web-site: www.spparish.com e-mail: spparish@shaw.ca

Parish Office: 656-7433, Fax 483-1597, Rectory: 652-1990

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm

RECONCILIATION Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

PASTOR: Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Neil Lensen

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chair, Bob Fowler, 655-3078

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am

Daily at 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays

& Thursdays and First Fridays

Liturgy of the Word at 9am on Mondays

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Brentwood Bay

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am

Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home

See inside bulletin

MARCH 9, 2008

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Ezek 37:12-14 / Rom 8:8-11 / Jn 11:1-45

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 _____

Phone# _____

Need donation envelopes? Yes _____ No _____

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

March 2nd \$4,348.50

PAD's \$2,815.00

2ND COLLECTION TODAY FOR SHARE LENT

Thank you for showing your solidarity with the world's less fortunate by generously contributing to the Development & Peace Campaign.

NEXT SUNDAY PASSION SUNDAY

Reminder, please bring your own branches as palms, flowered ones would be nice.

HOLY WEEK

Please set time aside for the Holy Week Celebrations, see schedule in the insert.

RECONCILIATION: MAR 14

As we near the end of our Lenten Journey, let us come together and celebrate God's forgiveness. Reconciliation Service with general absolution will be on Friday, March 14th at 7pm. Friday evening is chosen to favour participation of parents with their children as well as all parishioners.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

March 16 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion

10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

CWL BAKE SALE: TODAY

Parishioners are invited to buy these delicious homemade baked goods after Mass. Proceeds go to various charities. General CWL Meeting on Tuesday, March 11th at 2pm.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAR. 10

Mon., March 10th at 3pm at St. Elizabeth's. Topic: *Liturgy - The People of God Celebrate* (Con't).

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MAR. 10

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
3:00pm Reflection Group

TUESDAY, MAR. 11TH

9:00am Liturgy of the Word, No Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
1:00pm CWL Executive Meeting
2:00pm CWL meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 12TH

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, MAR. 13TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong
7:30pm RCIA

FRIDAY, MAR. 14TH

9:00am Mass at the home of Jack and Frances Chaproniere, 7746 E. Saanich Rd., 652-3948
7:00pm Reconciliation

SATURDAY, MAR. 15TH

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAR. 16TH

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

LECTORS NEEDED FOR MARCH:

"Thank you to all those who stepped up", Rose.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join a select group of volunteers by assisting with the task of preparing the coffee, etc for a short period. Coffee preparation takes about 20 min. before Mass and clean up afterwards. Only May remains open. For details call Helene at 656-0572, helene.dizy@shaw.ca

SPRING FLING - POT LUCK: APRIL 4

Tickets on sale after Mass. Ticket price is set at \$15 and \$7 per child in support of our fundraising program. Enjoy fun, food, frolic and help our refugee family, the Awors immigrate to Canada. For information call Janet Moir at 655-6780. **Mark Your Calendars.**

SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR YOUTH

Yes, we are already thinking about summer! Sacred Heart is once again offering a day camp for children, aged 5 - 12 from **July 7 - 11**, inclusive. The days run from 9:30 - 2:30. We are looking for 'junior leaders', Grade 8 - ? to assist the adult leaders. This looks terrific on a resume for a young person, particularly a young man. We also want your children. For further information, please contact sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca

EASTER PAINTING

The Association of Peninsula Christian Churches asked each church participating in the Ecumenical Good Friday walk to create a pictorial display of different events in the Crucifixion Story. The theme chosen for Saanich Peninsula Parish was "Jesus carries the cross, falls, is helped by Simon of Cyrene, and meets the women."

The painting portrays "despair, help, and hope." The cross is overwhelming and through the hands of Jesus we feel anguish and despair but the hands of Simon offer help from our fellow man and the hands of the women bring hope. The long arduous rock strewn trail is difficult but it eventually takes us beyond the foreboding grey skies to the rays of hope and salvation in the resurrection. Painting is by artist Lori Ogle.

GENERAL

VISION TV

Keeping a Mellow Heart in a Bitter Time with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI and Tom & Barb Zanzig. If you want to hear it again you can go to the internet at http://www.visiontv.ca/Programs/mosaic_specials_NCM2008.html

VICTORIA FAITH IN ACTION: MAR. 9

Invites you to an evening from 7-9pm to "Break the Cycle of Homelessness & Addiction" in the Capital Regional District. Discover Faith in Action, a local multi-faith social justice group and interact with Nancy Taylor & Victoria City Councillor, Charlayne Thornton-Joe. At St. Joseph the Worker Parish. For info: Peggy Wilmot 592-2320 or e-mail: fatherwilliam@shaw.ca.

LENTEN NOON FORUM: MAR. 12

Church St. John Divine, 1611 Quadra, Bishop Susan Johnson on "Luther, Church and Politics: Then and Now".

NFB FILM "CRAPSHOOT: The Gamble with our Wastes" March 12th at St. Joseph's 7-9pm.

ABBNEYFIELD SING-ALONG: MAR. 13

Abbneyfield residents invite you to join their sing-along with Irv (on accordion) on Thursday, March 13th at 2:30pm. Refreshments provided.

THE LINDEN SINGERS: MAR. 15

Introducing Director Garry Froese conducting a superb program of Choral Masterpieces Renaissance to Modern on Sat. March 15th at 7:30pm at St. John the Divine, 1611 Quadra St. Tickets \$18, Students/Seniors \$14, at the door.

THE NEWCOMBE SINGERS: MAR. 16

Present Requiem by John Rutter, Sunday March 16th at 7:30pm at Gordon Head United Church and Tuesday, March 18th at 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Church, 1701 Elgin Rd., Oak Bay. Donation.

CHRISM MASS: MAR. 18

Bishop Richard Gagnon will be the principal celebrant at the Chrism Mass at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Tues. March 18 at 7pm. At this Mass the oils are blessed; it also celebrates the unity between the bishop and the priests of the diocese together with the faithful.

TELEPHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Drop your old phone books in the box in the foyer of St. Elizabeth's Church. Recycling assists our local Peninsula Stroke Recovery Centre fund activities such as Speech Therapy and Guided Exercise Therapy. Your support is appreciated.