

Pastor's corner - Easter 2009

The weather these past days has gone between cold, windy and then sunny, warm. In so many ways this reminds us of the rhythm of human life: pain and joy, life and death, rebirth and endings.

In our liturgy this past week we celebrated the Paschal mystery, summarized each Sunday at our parish Eucharist, reminding us once more that our God is a God who wishes freely to be with us; a God who, in Jesus, has and continues to identify with all kinds of deaths and dyings, and lives them with us, bringing forth from them new life and hope. And as followers of Christ we, like Jesus, are called to become voluntary cross and pain bearers: to share the pain, the anguish, even the despair of our fellow human beings, to absorb also people's anger and care for them without question and love. Like Jesus we are called to emerge from our various tombs and awaken to life.

How can we? Because we are not alone! We are assured of the gift of the Spirit that helps us see how all our life experiences, no matter how painful, can also be life giving, sources of hope, moments of rising to new life. We usually stop at the dark side of death, just as we usually are preoccupied by the bleakness of our world, the economic and financial woes, the hunger, the sickness, the injustices, the despair, our own darkness, our own sinfulness. But we must also look at the flip side of all these deaths, so that we may discover that deeper mystical reality which Jesus showed to us in his death on the cross.

The cross is the major symbol of our faith and we should not be afraid of showing its truth to the world even if it is cool these days to wear it around the neck for purely decorative reasons. When we really reflect on it, the cross both forces us and teaches us to let go, to surrender and trust. And at that very moment when we surrender, pain becomes praise, weakness becomes strength, death becomes life. We know this, we can experience this, because of the example of Jesus.

Our own crosses in life CAN teach us compassion, to be merciful to the point of foolishness, to forgive seventy times seven, to reconcile, to share. Our own crosses, no matter how heavy, CAN make us vividly aware of the fact that everyone is wounded and crucified in some way. Our own crosses CAN make us sensitive to the sufferings of others.

Our crosses are in a beautiful way the seeds of compassion. Our crosses: mine but also yours, those of so many innocents in the world, in Zimbabwe, in Darfur, in our cities, this world's crosses. Yes, these crosses can transform hearts of stone into bread, broken for the hungry of the world.

God's Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead has also been given to us as a seed in baptism. And as we know a seed must die in order to grow and bear fruit. Archbishop Oscar Romero who was murdered 29 years ago on March 24, 1980 knew it, experienced it. It is truly fitting that just a few weeks ago Mauricio Funes, a member of the FMLN (Faribundo Marti National Liberation Front) was elected president of El Salvador. Educated at the Catholic University he is a welcome breath of fresh air, committed to bring about an end to years of injustices, to redistribution of wealth and greater help for the poor. He heard Romero's invitation addressed to us all:

"To each one of us Christ is saying: If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do like me. Be converted into a seed that let itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid. ... The Lord goes with you... If we illuminate with hope the longings for justice, peace, and goodness that we still have on this earth, they will be realized. Those who have put in their work a feeling of great faith, of love of God, of hope for humility, find all that work now overflowing in the splendors of a crown. Such has been the reward for all those who do work, watering the earth with truth, justice, love and kindness. These deeds are not lost; purified by the spirit of God, their effects are our reward." Yes, we are as Christians called to be truly Easter people, people who by their presence, by their word, by their action help this world to rise: witnesses of hope.

Have a wonderful Easter and may Easter continue to live in us. Shalom. Fr. Rolf, O.P.

fr. Rolf

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: 250-656-7433, Fax 250-483-1597, Rectory: 250-652-1990

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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Gary Koett

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Jai Francis **PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chair, Tim Leadem 250-656-5628

EUCCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am

Daily at 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays

& Thursdays and First Fridays

EUCCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am

Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home

See inside bulletin



RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10.34, 37-43

Col 3.1-4

1 Cor 5.6-8

John 20.1-18

HE IS RISEN!

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 Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

April 5	\$5,561.00
Share Lent (total to date)	\$4,002.00
PAD's (38 donors)	\$3,020.00

PRE-APPROVED DONATIONS (PAD's)

You have the option to support our parish through the use of a pre-approved donation rather than the weekly envelopes. On the 5th of each month, your contribution is automatically debited from your bank account. Packages are available in both churches. If you have any questions, please call Gary in the office.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Apr. 19 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

GARAGE, DAHLIA & BAKE SALE: APRIL 18

At St. Stephen's, 1000 block Mt. Newton X Rd. on Saturday, Apr. 18th from 9 am -1 pm. If you would like to rent a table, call 250-652-4311.

IN OUR PARISH

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: APRIL 15

Reminder that there will be a meeting of the St. Vincent De Paul Society on Wednesday, April 15th at 1:30pm at St. Elizabeth's.

FRIENDLY HOURS: APRIL 16

Re-opens on Thursday, April 16th.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 26

The AGM of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held following the 10:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Nominations are welcome from those who are willing to actively participate as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for the next two years. Contact Tim Leadem & Bob Fowler. Nomination forms are available to pick up at the Parish Office.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APRIL 13

9:00am Mass
1:00pm Memory P.L.U.S.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am **NOTE: No Friendly Hours today**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
1:30pm St. Vincent de Paul

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

9:00am Mass at the Legion Manor,
7601 E. Saanich Rd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAY 6

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, May 6th at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would like a visit from the Pastor or Visitation Team, please call the office (250-656-7433).

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Knights of Columbus communion breakfast that was to be held on Sunday, April 19 has been cancelled.

GENERAL

NEED CRISIS & INFORMATION LINE

To find out more about volunteering for the Need Crisis Line, you are invited to attend an information session on Tuesday, April 14th from 6:30 to 7:45pm at The Downtown "Y" Room A, 851 Broughton St. or Tuesday, 21st, 6:30-7:45pm at UVic Student Union Building, Room 110B, 3800 Finnerty Rd. www.needcrisis.bc.ca.

PENINSULA SINGERS CONCERT: APR. 24-26

The Peninsula Singers Spring 2009 Benefit Concert Series *Of Castles, Kilts and Leprechauns*: Songs from the British Isles and Ireland will be held on Friday, April 24th & Saturday, April 25th at 7:30pm and Sunday, April 26th at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Centre. Tickets \$20/adults, \$10/children available at the Mary Winspear Box Office. Proceeds to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation's Music Therapy Program.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA: MAY 9

St. Rose of Lima Parish, 6221 Sooke Rd. present a Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 9th. Featuring fancy sandwiches, scones and preserves, assorted sweets, tea and coffee. 3 sittings available: 11am, 12:30pm and 2:00pm. Tickets are \$15 each and sold in advance by phoning the parish office at 250-642-3945.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 29-31

All youth in grades 8-12: come to the 6th annual DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE, "FSHS Network: Live 24/7". Our special guest speaker is Mike Patin, renowned coach, teacher, and inspirational youth minister. Dates: Friday, May 29 to Sunday May 31. Place: St. Andrew's High School, Victoria. For registration info, contact your parish youth leader, or download the registration form at www.rcdvictoria.org. Questions? Contact DYC Broadcast Headquarters at 250-479-1331 (ext. 232) or email folloero@shaw.ca

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES: APR. 8 & 15

www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health
250-472-4747

Wednesdays, Apr. 8 & 15, from 7-9 pm. "Life After Loss, New Beginnings". Instructor: Instructor: Su Russell, MEd, a registered clinical counsellor. Fee \$63.00. Class #HPHE213.

COUNSELLING & TRAINING COURSES

From changing people...to helping people change. This is a course for community professionals through the Transtheoretical Model of Change, an adaptable, proven and easy-to-understand model outlining the stages that people typically go through as they bring order into their lives. There will be 3 course levels: 1) April 24th: The Change Process; 2) May 29th: The Art of Dealing with Resistance; and 3) June 10th: Strengthening Commitment to Change. The courses run from 8:30 to 4:30 pm, continental breakfast at 8am at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill X Rd. Cost \$75 per course (lunch included) or attend all 3 for \$195. Workshop Facilitator: Dr. Martin Spray. Call South Island Centre at 250-472-2851 to register.

MESSAGES

THANK YOU

My sincere appreciation and thank you to all parishioners who were so supportive, endlessly patient and understanding during my short but productive period as your Parish Coordinator. Thank you Maureen Hertz – for your very kind words; sorry I couldn't chat with every one who stopped by for a coffee and piece of cake. Thanks to Lynn Koett and the Religious Education Ministry for your gift and to those responsible for the lovely cake. A big thank you to Jim Williams, Freddie Brand and Mark Wright (our Finance Committee); and to members of Parish Council for the loving support and the thoroughly enjoyable dinner get together. God Bless and Happy Easter to all, Neil Lensen