

Pastor's corner - March 28, 2010

With Passion or Palm Sunday we are entering today the most Holy Week of our yearly faith journey. At Christmas we celebrated the fact that our God loves this world and us so much that he became human and vulnerable in Jesus. That feast of God's Incarnation comes now to its fullest expression and meaning with the suffering and death of Jesus: the adult Jesus grown in wisdom and in the love of God freely takes up all our brokenness, our sins, our sufferings, our hopes and gives his own life so that he might free us from all that binds us. And because he was faithful to that mission God raises him up and gives us the promise of that same resurrection to new life.

Every Sunday we celebrate this paschal mystery in the Eucharist. We do so in even more traditional and meaningful ways during the three-day celebration of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night), which constitute one single solemn celebration, the most important one of our Liturgical Year.

Each faith group has a very special time period and some central celebrations which are considered an essential expression of its belief. For us Christians the Triduum is that central expression of our belief. When we do not participate in this three-day celebration we miss something essential.

On Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper we remember first the Jewish feast of Passover, "a day of remembrance, celebrated as a festival to the Lord (Exodus 12)." We remember that Israel is God's people because God rescued Israel from death and from years of slavery. This remembrance is not only of God's action in the past but also of God's action here and now, in the life of this world of ours. As followers of Jesus we are the new Israel, the new people of God. In the celebration of the Triduum we are celebrating our own identity through baptism as a people of God freed by God's action in Jesus who died for us so that we might be free and live, free of the burdens of sin, suffering and even death. Jesus gave himself to the fullest; he emptied himself and gave his life so that we might have life to the fullest.

On Thursday evening the symbol of Jesus' gift of himself to us is given in the gesture of Jesus who, doing the work of a slave, washes the feet of his disciples. And Jesus gives us the command: "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you (John 13:15)." In so doing Jesus invites us to become vulnerable and to see our relationships and roles as leaders not as power struggles but as fundamentally ones of service to one another, examples of our willingness to serve and even lay down our own lives for each other. Jesus gives himself as nourishment and invites us to become nourishment to one another, to a world which is such need of true and lasting nourishment.

On Good Friday we further re-member, re-connect to what God did for us in Jesus by venerating the cross, by which Jesus freed us from all bonds and chains, and by which he shared God's life with us. It is a celebration which reminds us that God stands with us, walks with us in our suffering. The suffering will not disappear but we now know that we are not alone. God is faithful to us even in our sins, God continues to walk with us, frees us from their burden and their shame each time we recognize our need for and ask for forgiveness. Jesus' example also calls us to stand and to walk with those who suffer, whether someone close to us or far away. Jesus on the cross knew that God was with him and he received strength from that. We too can be a presence. At times we may feel helpless when confronted with the terrible suffering of the poor but we can all walk with them by supporting small local projects as well as by working towards the structural changes necessary to free them from burdens and chains.

Please, consider participating in these beautiful Holy Week celebrations which strengthen our faith.

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 COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Co-Chairs, Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am.
Daily on Tuesdays (9am), Wednesdays (8:30am),
Thursdays (9am), and First Fridays (9am).

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am
Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home.
See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.



PASSION SUNDAY

MARCH 28, 2010

Isa 50.4-7 / Phil 2.6-11 / Lk 22.14-23.56

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 the Visitation Team, please call the office at 250-656-7433.

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:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 3,395.00
Mar. 7:	\$ 5,515.79
Mar. 14:	\$ 3,721.30
Mar. 21:	\$ 3,564.75
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00
Share Lent:	\$ 3,218.50

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

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

- **Eileen James** (funeral was on Mar. 24)
- **Anna Tellevik** (funeral was on Mar. 26)
- **Els Welle** (funeral will be at St. Elizabeth's on **Monday, March 29** at 10 am)

FINAL TREND DISCERNMENT DISCUSSION: MONDAY, MARCH 29

The Diocese of Victoria is sponsoring the following discussion at St. Elizabeth's from 7 - 9pm:

- Monday, Mar. 29 - Stewardship & Finance and Parish Outreach & Social Justice

CHRISM MASS: MAR. 30

The annual Chrism Mass is on Tue. Mar. 30, 7pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral with Bishop Gagnon. At this service the bishop gathers the faithful of the diocese - priests, religious and laity - around him for the blessing and consecration of the oils that will be used in all our parishes in the coming year. All are invited to attend. A reception will follow.

THANK YOU

When I came back from East Timor and Indonesia on Thursday I was greeted with some wonderful surprises. A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful people who decided to be generous with their time and talents by cleaning the carpets and windows in the rectory in my absence. And, thank you, Francois Vinay and Marcel Fauchon, for your hard work in resolving the water problem at the rectory and for the burning of the large pile of tree branches, etc. It is good to be back in this wonderful community. Fr. Rolf.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, MAR. 29

10:00am **Funeral Mass for Els Welle**
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group
1:00pm Memory Plus
7:00pm **Diocesan Trend Discernment Meeting (last session)**

TUESDAY, MAR. 30

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 31

8:30am Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, APRIL 1 (Holy Thursday)

11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm **NO** Taiji Qigong

7:30pm **Holy Thursday Mass**

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 (Good Friday)

3:00pm **Good Friday Service**

SATURDAY, APRIL 3 (Holy Saturday)

8:30pm **Easter Vigil**

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 (Easter Sunday)

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's followed by Coffee Fellowship

GENERAL

VIA CHORALIS CONCERT: MAR. 28

Via Choralis Chamber Choir is performing Mozart's Requiem with soloists and orchestra, on Sun. Mar. 28, 2:30pm at St. Elizabeth's. Tickets are available at the door for \$20. Meet the choir and enjoy refreshments following the concert.

NO INTER-CHURCH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

There will be **NO** Good Friday Community Inter-Church Service this year at Mary Winspear Centre.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: APR. 2

St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 7921 St. Stephen's Lane, Saanichton will be having Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Meditations on Fri., Apr. 2 at 10am. Everyone welcome!

A NIGHT OF MUSIC: MAR. 31

Bayside Middle School Festival Band presents: A Night of Music, Featuring Bayside Festival band, Victoria Concert band and a series of musical soloists on Mar 31st at 7pm at Bayside Middle School, 1101 Newton Place, Brentwood Bay. Tickets are \$10. Please call Luciana Battilana at 250-652-0340 to reserve your ticket. The proceeds will help in funding the Band department in repairing and buying band instruments.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT SHOP

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to announce the opening of their new thrift store at 1010 Craigflower Rd. across from the Gorge Golf Course. There are 4 other locations in Sidney, downtown Victoria, Langford and Sooke.

ST. JOSEPH'S DANCE & AUCTION: APR. 10

St. Joseph's School is looking for items for their Annual Barn Dance and Auction on Sat. Apr. 10. We would greatly appreciate donations of suitable auction items, artisan pieces, or gift certificates. This is a great way to showcase your business or talent. If you would like to contribute, please phone the school at 246-3191 or email sjc@cisdv.bc.ca. Tickets available soon.

SPIRITUAL CARE SPRING ORIENTATION: APR. 14

VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) Spiritual Care Services is holding a Spring Orientation for new faith leaders and lay visitors who have not attended an orientation in the past 5 years. Wed. Apr. 14 from 9:30 - 11:30am at the Victoria General Hospital Lecture Room. To register or for more information call Karen Wilson at 250-727-4278.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

FREE LECTURE SERIES: MAR. 31

"A Church for the 21st Century: The Spirit of Vatican II in Our Time" sponsored by UVic Centre for Studies in Religion & Society:

Wed. Mar. 31, 4:30pm in the UVic David Strong Building, Rm. C103. Speaker: Harold Coward, CSRS Associate Fellow, Founding Director CSRS. Theme: "Religious Understandings of a 'Good Death' in Hospice Care".

Holy Week in the Parish

TUESDAY, March 30th

9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY, March 31st

8:30am Mass

9:00 Eucharistic Adoration

HOLY THURSDAY, April 1st

(No 9:00 am Mass)

7:30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper –

St. Elizabeth's

(bring bells for the Gloria)

Special collection for the poor

Following Mass - Eucharistic Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2nd

3:00pm Passion of our Lord Service –

St. Elizabeth's

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3rd

(No 5:00 pm Mass)

8:30pm Easter Vigil - St. Elizabeth's

(Bring bells for the Gloria, flowers

and a snack to share after).

EASTER SUNDAY, April 4th

8:30am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption

10:30am Mass - St. Elizabeth's

EASTER MONDAY, April 5th

9:00am Mass

