

Pastor's Corner - Easter 2010

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 Haiti, in Zimbabwe, 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. We are called to let our quest for more things, for inordinate pleasures, die in us and to strive for an end to injustices, for redistribution of wealth and respect for the poor, for a true peace devoid of all violence and hatred.

Archbishop Oscar Romero, murdered 30 years ago on March 24 1980, knew it and invites us:

"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 lets 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 in action, people who by their presence, by their word, by their action help this world to rise: we are called to be 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 COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

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

EUCCHARIST 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).

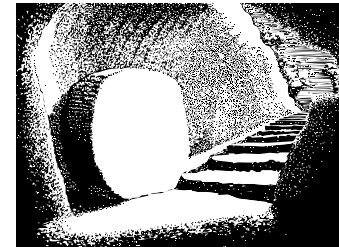
EUCCHARIST AT

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.



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 4, 2010

Acts 10.34, 37-43 / Col 3.1-4 / Jn 20.1-18

VISITING EUCCHARISTIC 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 _____

Address _____

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
Mar. 28:	\$ 3,540.13
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00
Share Lent:	\$ 4,483.50

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

FRIENDLY HOURS CLOSED

Friendly hours will be closed on Tues. April 6 and Thurs. April 8, re-opening on Tues. Apr. 13. Happy Easter!

C.W.A. MEETING: APR. 6

The C.W.A. meeting will be held on Tue. Apr. 6, 1:30pm at the home of Sally Gannon, #6 - 7570 Tetayut Rd., phone 250-652-2648.

C.W.L. GENERAL MEETING: APR. 13

The C.W.L. General Meeting will be on Apr. 13 at 2pm. There will be a presentation on Mary's life, a talk on "Our Lady of Good Council", and the Crowning of Mary.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DONATIONS

Please fill in your name and address on your St. Vincent de Paul donation envelopes (blue), as donations are recorded by name, not envelope number.

PENINSULA CO-OP

If you shop or buy gas at the Peninsula Co-op and you don't have a Co-op membership, please consider using the parish membership number (48301) when making your purchase. Thank you!

GENERAL

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APR. 5

9:00am Mass
1:00pm No Faith Reflection Group
1:00pm Memory Plus

TUESDAY, APR. 6

9:00am Mass
7:30pm Knights of Columbus Exec. Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 7

8:30am Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

THURSDAY, APR. 8

9:00am Mass
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, APR. 9

9:00am Mass in a private home
(call Barb at 652-1653 for location)

SATURDAY, APR. 10

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APR. 11

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
9:30am Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

STRINDBERG'S EASTER: APR. 3-4

The Chemainus Theatre presents an innovatively staged classic drama about possibility, transformation and hope. The story takes place over the Easter weekend and tells the tale of a fallen family that is haunted by an unpaid debt. The talented cast leads the audience through a funny and engaging show, full of humanity, sympathy and amazing spiritual beauty. Call the Chemainus Box Office at 1-800-565-7738 to book your tickets.

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. They 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 250-246-3191 or email sjc@cisdv.bc.ca. Tickets available soon.

AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES: APR. 11

In celebration of the birthday of Sister Lucy come see the academy award winning movie "The Blind Side", starring Sandra Bullock, on Sun. Apr. 11, 1:30pm at the Odeon Theatre, 780 Yates Street. Tickets are \$20 (includes admission, popcorn, pop and a birthday cupcake). Tickets are available at the Mount St. Mary Foundation office at 861 Fairfield Road or by phone at 250-480-3140.

SPIRITUAL CARE 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 five 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 727-4278.

SACRED HEART CHARITIES SALE: APR. 16-17

You are invited to Sacred Heart's Christian Charities Spring Clothing & Attic Treasures Sale at the church hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St. on Fri. April 16 from 6-9pm and Sat. April 17 from 9am-2pm. Free admission, wheelchair accessible, all proceeds to charities. For additional information call Bernie Thompson at 250-658-2253.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS:

Rev. Sean Flynn - Pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Mill Bay & Our Lady Queen of the World, Shawnigan Lake (May 1, 2010)

Rev. Dean Henderson - Temporary Administrator of Sacred Heart, Victoria (May-June, 2010)

Rev. Peter Ho - Retired from active ministry in the Diocese of Victoria (May 1, 2010)

Rev. Keith Heiberg - Temporary administrator of St. Patrick's, Victoria (May-June, 2010)

Rev. William MacDonald, omi - Appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria (July 1, 2010)

Rev. Larrie Soberano - Appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Salt Spring Is. (July 1, 2010)

Rev. Frank Franz - Appointed full-time Hospital Chaplain in the Greater Victoria area (July 1, 2010)

Rev. Alfredo Monacelli - Appointed Pastor of St. Edward's Parish, Duncan (July 1, 2010)

Rev. Mel Bayron - Appointed Assistant Pastor of Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria (July 1, 2010)

Rev. Mark Paczka, sds - Appointed Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Courtenay (July 1/10)

Rev. Stephen Paine - Appointed Pastor of Holy Family/Notre Dame Parish, Port Alberni (July 1/10)

ST. ROSE OF LIMA GARAGE SALE: APR. 17

Sat. April 17 at St. Rose of Lima Parish Hall, 6221 Sooke Rd., Sooke from 9am to 1pm. For more information call 250-642-3945.

PASTORAL CARE RETREAT: APR. 21

Archbishop Michael Miller will be leading a ½ day retreat sponsored by the Catholic Health Association of BC for those who work or volunteer in the pastoral care health ministry. Held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 315 Walker St., Coquitlam, Wed. April 21 from 9am to noon. The Archbishop will be speaking on "Spe Salvi" Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian Hope. Cost \$25 per person. Register before Apr. 16 at www.chabc.bc.ca or 604-524-3427.

PASSIONATE LIVES: APR. 22

Queenswood presents Passionate Lives, a dinner and lecture/performance series featuring guests who seek to bring truth, beauty and justice to the world through ministry, activism and art. See www.queenswoodvictoria.ca/passionate-lives for more info. The next evening and speaker will be on Thurs. Apr. 22. Dinner is at 5:30pm, presentation is at 7pm. Speaker Frank Desiderio, csp, Paulist priest and executive producer. Cost: dinner and presentation - \$25, presentation only - \$15 (student rate available).

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: APR. 25

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Saanichton invites you to a Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Pam Orman as she enters retirement on Sun. Apr. 25, 10am at St. Mary's Anglican Church, 1973 Cultra Ave, Saanichton. A pot luck lunch will follow in the parish hall at 11:30am. RSVP by April 21 by calling 250-652-1611.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 14-16

All youth in grades 8-12 and recent grads: come to the 7th annual Diocesan Youth Conference! Theme: "From The Inside Out." Special guest will be Fr. Tony Ricard, a truly inspiring speaker from New Orleans. May 14-16 at St. Andrew's High School, Victoria. For registration info contact Roy Battilana at 250-652-0340 or download the form at www.rcdvictoria.org. Questions? Contact the Conference Planning Committee at 250-479-1331 ext. 232, or e-mail follero@shaw.ca.