

Pastor's corner - May 16, 2010

Easter was the celebration of the highlight of our faith: in Jesus God became flesh and lived within our human existence so that He might by his suffering and death free us from all that binds and oppresses us and bring us "home" to God. At today's feast of the Ascension we celebrate that the Christ event has come full circle and that the risen Lord, born the vulnerable babe in Bethlehem, has gone home to God and glory. The feast of the Ascension is in a way a reminder to us that we too are destined to go home and live in the glory of God.

In the past five Sundays we have had a glimpse of glory in the second readings taken from the Book of Revelation. We also have been reminded that Jesus was revealing in his flesh, in his word and in his walking the talk, 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, God's wisdom became real, became flesh in Jesus and was present in our midst. So, how can we then celebrate his going away from us?

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 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 to you (John 16:7-8)." This Spirit is already in us; God is 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 it'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 : "Men 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 and in the week to come, pray that we may come to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism. Already in Isaiah 11:2-3 these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are described by Saint Ambrose as poured out on a believer at baptism: 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 the Gift of the Holy Spirit next Sunday at Pentecost 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."

Shalom,

*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](http://www.spparish.com)** e-mail: [spparish@shaw.ca](mailto:spparish@shaw.ca)

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

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

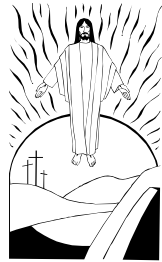
**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

**PASTOR:** Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

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



<p align="center"><b>EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S</b> 10030 Third Street, Sidney</p> <p align="center">Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am. Daily on Tuesdays (9 am), Wednesdays (8:30 am), Thursdays (9 am), and First Fridays (9 am).</p>	<p align="center"><b>EUCHARIST AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION</b> 7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton Sundays at 8:30 am</p> <p align="center">Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am Remaining Fridays at 9 am in a private home. (See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin. )</p>
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## ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### MAY 16, 2010

Acts 1.1-11 / Eph 1.17-23 / Lk 24.46-53

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Need donation envelopes? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## PARISH REPORT

### COLLECTIONS:

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PAD's (monthly total): \$ 3,395.00  
May 2nd \$ 4,092.12  
May 9th \$ 5,027.25  
Monthly target: Approx. \$23,000.00

### SECOND COLLECTION: MAY 15 & 16

A 2nd collection will be taken after communion on May 15 & 16 for **The Pope's Pastoral Works**.

## COVENANT

### ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See [ststephensanglican.net](http://ststephensanglican.net) for service times.

## IN OUR PARISH

### YOUTH TALENT SHOW: MAY 23

Sunday, May 23, noon at St. Elizabeth's. Donations graciously accepted. Half the proceeds will be donated to Victoria youth oriented shelters, operations track shoes and birthright.

### ARBUTUS SINGERS SPRING CONCERT: MAY 27

Wed. May 27, 7:30pm at St. Elizabeth's. A lively, enjoyable evening of your favourite songs - golden oldies and contemporary. An evening with a purpose! All proceeds will go to Sr. Thomas's projects to help women grow food for their families in Afabet, Eritrea. Don't miss it! Tickets: \$10 or \$25 per family, available after the 10:30 Sun. Masses, or call Stephanie Schroeder at 655-3635.



### PARISH PICNIC: JUNE 9

Our annual parish picnic will be held on Wed. June 9 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Heritage Acres, located off Island View Road & Pat Bay Hwy. Bring your own picnic, food and dishes. Refreshments, dessert, and barbeque grills will be provided. The train will be running for kids of all ages. Good fellowship and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome! For more information call Lynn at 250-652-2543, or email her at [Lynn@spparish.com](mailto:Lynn@spparish.com).

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### MONDAY, MAY 17

1:00pm Faith Reflection Group  
1:00pm Memory Plus

### TUESDAY, MAY 18

9:00am Mass  
11:30am Friendly Hours  
7:00pm **K of C Rosary**  
7:30pm **K of C General Meeting**

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

8:30am Mass  
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration  
10:00am Taiji Qigong

### THURSDAY, MAY 20

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

### FRIDAY, MAY 21

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 22

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

### SUNDAY, MAY 23

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

### PASTORAL PLANNING - SECOND SURVEY

The Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Planning Committee invites all parishioners to complete their 2nd Consultation Survey. **Please don't forget to return your completed surveys by the June 1st deadline.** While parishioners can submit hard copy surveys, **it would be very helpful if you could complete this questionnaire online at: [www.rcdvictoria.org](http://www.rcdvictoria.org).** "We pray that the Holy Spirit, source of all unity, will bring us together as a Diocesan family to complete this Second Consultation Survey of our Diocesan Pastoral Planning year" Bishop Richard Gagnon

### CLERGY APPRECIATION DINNER: MAY 28

The third annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 753 West Burnside Rd. on Fri. May 28. Doors open at 5:30pm with dinner at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$40 / person. For tickets contact Gord Hryhoryshen at 250-652-4379 or Ralph Gillis at 250-655-4898.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 13

The parish Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at noon on Sunday, June 13. **Please attend!**

## GENERAL

### CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY WALKATHON: MAY 16

To increase awareness of the work of the CBS and raise funds to give Bibles to the families of the Canadian troops, we will walk along the bike path between Beacon Ave and MacDonald Park Rd. on Sun. May 16 from 2 - 4 pm. Meet at Sidney Pentecostal Church, 10364 MacDonald Park Rd. We invite all age groups, the churches on the peninsula, young peoples groups, Sunday school groups, bible study groups, ladies or men's groups to participate.

### CHORAL MEDITATION: MAY 20

Thu. May 20, 8 pm at the UVic Farquhar Auditorium, the Victoria Choral Society, under the direction of Giuseppe Pietrarroia, will present *Stabat Mater*, by Dvorak, a meditation on the grieving Mary standing at the foot of the Cross. Tickets available at the UVic Ticket Centre. Call 250-721-8480 or see [www.auditorium.uvic.ca](http://www.auditorium.uvic.ca). Partial proceeds will go to the Queen Alexandra Foundation, in support of Jeneece Place.

### MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA: JUNE 5

A Fertility and Infertility Awareness Tea will take place on Sat. June 5 at 3 pm at Maple Bay Rowing Club. Cost \$5 per mother/daughter team. Register at 250-709-9081 or email [infobillings@shaw.ca](mailto:infobillings@shaw.ca). See poster in foyer at St. Elizabeth's.

### HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT: JUNE 5

*Spirit and Space*, a benefit concert of guitar and cello with Michael Waters and Allannah Dow to rebuild the schools and clinics of the Sisters of St. Ann in Haiti, Sat. June 5, 7 pm at Queenswood. Tickets: \$20. For more info call 250-477-3822 ext. 0. Tax receipts for donations can be made at the concert or online at [www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca/support](http://www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca/support).

### SALT & LIGHT TELEVISION ...

is available in our area on Shaw Digital Cable 160. Coming up this week: May 16, 5 pm: "Witness" with Sr. Anna Bodzinska & Sr. Anne-Denise Rincckwald, 5:30 & 9:30 pm: "First Anniversary of Papal Visit to the Holy Land". For schedule & more info visit [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org) or call 1-888-302-7181. Canada's Catholic network is also available nationwide via satellite on Bell ExpressVu (654).

## SCHOOL VACANCIES

St. Joseph's School currently has vacancies for two students in Grade 7 for the 2010 / 11 school year. For additional information contact the school office at 250-479-1232.

### SECULAR DISCALCED CARMELITES: JUNE 5

An information meeting regarding the commitment to Carmelite spirituality as a lay person will take place on Sat. June 5, 1:30 pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 849 Old Esquimalt Rd. Info: Joan Ripley at 250-595-3102 or email [jripley@shaw.ca](mailto:jripley@shaw.ca).

## WORKSHOPS

### QUEENSWOOD SEMINARS

- **May 21: Life-Work Balance Workshop** for teachers. 9 am to 4 pm. Workshop facilitators: **Flo Follero-Pugh** and Dawn Schell. Cost: \$130.
- **June 25 - 27: Find Healing In God**  
Facilitator: Phil Shano, sj. All-inclusive live-in price: \$459 Commuter price: \$349. Bursaries available. Register by May 17 for 10% discount.

Queenswood location: 2494 Arbutus Rd., Victoria. For more info or to register call 250-477-3822, email [retreats@queenswoodvictoria.ca](mailto:retreats@queenswoodvictoria.ca), or see [www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca](http://www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca).

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1112 Caledonia Ave. is offering the course "Adam & Eve and All That..." on Tuesday evenings, May 11 to June 15, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Presented by Mary Kelty, M.A. Religious Ed. Themes: "Background to the Hebrew Scriptures", "Understanding Genesis 1-11" and "Catholics, the Bible and Science".

### VISIONING A PROMISING LIFE IN CHALLENGING TIMES WORKSHOP: MAY 29

Presented by international speaker Duane Elgin. Sat. May 29, 9:30 am to 5 pm at UVic. For more information see [www.livinglanguageinstitute.org](http://www.livinglanguageinstitute.org).

### MERTON RETREAT: JULY 9 - 11

Following the *Mystics through the Narrow Gate* with Dr. James Finley at Vancouver School of Theology on the campus of UBC, Fri. July 9, 7 - 8:30 pm; Sat. July 10, 9am - 5pm; Sun. July 11, 9am - noon. Information / registration: call 604-822-9815, email [programadmin@vst.edu](mailto:programadmin@vst.edu) or see [www.vst.edu](http://www.vst.edu).