

St. Edward's Church

2085 Maple Bay Road, Duncan, B.C. V9L 5L9

250-746-6831

Website: www.stedwardsduncan.com

E-mail: ed123a@shaw.ca

March 19/20,
2016

Administrator: FATHER LUYEN DAU, C.S.s.R. E-mail: ldau2006@gmail.com

Secretary: Sherriden Clements / Children's Religious Education Coordinator: Paula Hudson / Bookkeeper: Jackie Brimacombe

Queen of Angels Roman Catholic School Principal: Kathy Korman 250-746-5919

Parish Pastoral Council Chair, Mary Hof 250-743-4074 E-mail: gmhof@shaw.ca

AT ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH

Saturday Reconciliation 3:30-4:30 p.m. (or by appointment)
Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Reconciliation 9:00-9:30 a.m. (or by appointment)
Mass: 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday Mass: 6:30 p.m.

AT ST. CLARE'S MONASTERY

2359 Calais Road, Duncan
Mass - Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m.
Reconciliation:
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 noon—1:00 p.m.

AT SUNRIDGE PLACE

361 Bundoock Avenue, Duncan
Mass - Friday 11:00 a.m.

From Fr. Luyen's Desk

Palm Sunday

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the past few months, we had a lot of people coming to stay in Duncan from different parts of Canada to avoid the Winter. Now it is Spring time, some of them have returned to their hometown. Before they left for home, some of them had approached me to say "good bye," and expressed how happy they were each time they attended Mass here at St. Edward's Parish. They really appreciated the friendly and welcoming atmosphere that people at St. Edward's provided. As a parish priest, I am happy to hear that and I'd like to thank you all of you for making this parish a welcoming Church, and making people appreciate the beauty of liturgy. Thank you especially to the Ushers, Greeters, Choirs, Altar Servers, Lectors, Sacristans, Extraordinary ministers of the Holy Communion, Power Point helper, Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word, Coffee servers. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for Sunday breakfast! I also would like to thank those who volunteer to drive our brothers/sisters to Church! Thanks to those who have worked behind the scenes making phone calls when they did not see someone at Church. Again, thank you all for helping make St. Edward's such a wonderful place!

This weekend we are entering into Holy Week. It is NOT just another ordinary week, but The Feast of Our Salvation! Unite yourself with the Church throughout the world. Keep it at the forefront of your mind each day. Let your thoughts and mood reflect - It's Holy Week! Celebrate and keep the week to the best of your ability. Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead out of love for us. Holy Week puts before us and celebrates the events that brought us salvation in Christ.

The best way we can engage this week is to celebrate the liturgies, particularly the Triduum - (3 days), which are seen as one continuous celebration.

- Please come on **Holy Thursday** for the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m. when we celebrate the institution of the Holy Eucharist and remember how the Lord taught us to live the Eucharist as he washed the feet of his disciples. From the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we move into the "night watch" as the Eucharistic procession leads us to the garden of Christ's prayer to the Father, his invitation to the disciples "to watch and pray," before his arrest. At midnight, adoration will cease and the solemn fast of Good Friday begins.

- On **Good Friday**, come back to remember with gratitude and devotion, our Lord's suffering and death, as we tell the story of His passion, venerate his cross, and are united with Him in Holy Communion. Where else would we be on Good Friday? First in the morning, we will have stations of the Cross on Mt. Tzouhalem. We will meet at St. Ann's Church at 9:00 a.m. before we climb up to Mt. Tzouhalem.

Then at 3:00 p.m. we will celebrate the Passion of the Lord with the veneration of the Cross at St. Edward's.

Please remember that Good Friday is a Solemn Day of Fast and Abstinence.

Fasting: All Catholics in good health, ages 18 to 59 are to fast, taking only one meal, and two smaller meals (if needed) to maintain strength on Good Friday

- On **Holy Saturday** we will gather in the Church at 8:30 p.m. for the solemn Vigil to celebrate Christ's victory over death in the First Mass of Easter! We light the new fire and sing the proclamation that Jesus is risen from the dead, we recount salvation history through the Scriptures, we welcome new members into the Church through Baptism, Profession of Faith, Confirmation and Holy Communion - It is truly a night of hospitality and new life in our parish!

Please note the schedule for the Triduum is in this bulletin so make the effort to celebrate the 3 days with your St. Edward's Parish Family. Parents, bring your children to Church during Holy Week! The liturgies of Holy Week are part of the faith formation of our children - Celebrating these liturgies is what we do as Catholics.

Last Thursday all priests and deacons of our Diocese gathered with bishop Gary for the Chrism Mass. At this Mass, the holy oils, which we use for the sacramental life of the Church, were blessed and consecrated. The oils were brought back to the parish and will be presented to our community this Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The Chrism Mass was special for the Bishop and all the priests, as we renewed our promises of ordination and recommitted ourselves to serve and minister as priests in the Lord for His Church.

I'd ask you, when you come to Mass on Holy Thursday please offer a special prayer for our Bishop and all priests. Also, offer special prayers this week for our four "Elect" who will join the Church at the Easter Vigil, and for the five children to be baptized on Easter Sunday.

In Christ's Love,

Your brother priest, Fr. Luyen, CSsR

Pray, Read, Discuss for Next Week

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20:1-9

Focus

“This week takes us from somber reflection to glorious rejoicing.”

We begin the holiest week of the year with blessed palms and processions. We recall the events that lead to another procession on Good Friday up the hill to Calvary. Because we know the rest of the story, we anticipate the glorious procession from the empty tomb to the announcement of the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead.

Thank You

I would like to thank all my parish family for all your prayers and cards received for Peggy and myself during her illness. God Bless you all. Harriet Duncan



Decorating the Worship Area for Easter Triduum

The word “Triduum” comes from the Latin word meaning “three days” and encompasses the three most sacred days in the Church year. Since these celebrations are filled with rich symbolism we need help in decorating the Worship area to ensure that everyone who attends these celebrations has a most meaningful experience. If you can help please call the parish office at 250-746-6831.



Many thanks to all who donated to Share Lent last weekend. Please note that if you missed this special collection but would like to give, you may do so in the next few weeks.

PRAYER INSPIRED BY LAUDATO SI'

Open My Eyes to the Light of Faith

Heavenly Father we are blind
without the healing touch of Your son upon our eyes.
darkness is all around us,
yet through our faith You desire for us to see.

Open our eyes to the plight of our common home
and those Brothers and Sister with whom we share it.
Let us see the wisdom of the inspired Word of God
and the Word made incarnate.

Scripture reminds us of Your love
for all creation and creatures,
and of our relationships to defend human dignity,
to see the fullness of nature
and to express the value of all creation.

May we willing till and keep your world,
protecting the earth and ensuring future fruitfulness.
Let us value the fragility of our world and universe
and open ourselves fully
to the mystery of beauty that surrounds us.

Let us transcend human self-centeredness and greed
to feel the fullness of Christ’s embrace
shared with all of nature and creation.



If you would like to contribute to the purchase of flowers in the Worship Area at Eastertime, please find special envelopes on the table in the foyer for your donations. Many thanks.



Dear Parishioners:
Your council will meet Wednesday, March 23rd, at 3:30 p.m.. I failed to include phone numbers of your council members, who you may want to call about the notice that was in last weeks' bulletin re. the elevator. Members emails were listed, here are the phone numbers. Thanks to those who did send me emails, if there is limited interest, your council will not proceed. Please see the notice in last week bulletin for further info.
Blessings, have a wonderful holy week.
Mary Hof, PPC Chair

- Please contact any of the following
- Jim Young, jimanna@shaw.ca Chair of elevator committee 250-748-9947
 - Pat Carter, thecarterclan@shaw.ca 250-746-9823
 - Carol DeBruin, cdebruin@shaw.ca 250-746-4019
 - Egils Anderson, eglaine53@gmail.com 250-746-5403
 - Julia Hengstler, Julia.Hengstler@viu.ca 250-748-5083
 - Mary Hof, mhof126@gmail.com 250-743-4074

**Please pray for the following
who are in special need of God's healing.**

Maggie Bell	Glen Lowe	Scott Wright
Anne Welch	Bob Benson	Paul Boray
Elizabeth Pickles	Peter Barfield	Ann Waugh
Fred Kelly	Tschi Fellmann	Justin Moore
Thomas Kay	Eileen Martin	Ria Donders
Steve Barkanyi	Fr. Maynard Boomers, omi	Arlene Laughren
Annetta Anderson	Fr. Bob Kelly, omi	Tom Phillipson
Jenie Lauzon	David Russell	Tony Aquino
Kirby Flegel	Terry Christofferson	Barbara Ganter
Ray Marquis	Steven Christofferson	Ashley Pifko
Brenda Whelan	Yvonne Gill	Margaret Fay
Paulette Nelson	June Goode	Andy Slade
Jan Spencer	Andy Vanderstapp	Terry Thorpe
Bob Goehring	Terry Wlodarczyk	Maria Roemer
Tim Cech	Baby Benjamin	Carol Enns
Steve Reiter	Joan Getson	Frank Gierc, sr.
Dale Stelter	Kim Gunn	Jan Tokorcheck
Susan Ferguson	Maurice Foucher	Riet Heemskerck
	Naomi Prodhahl	Barbara Jackson
	Brent Groot	

If you are going into the hospital, or are house bound and you would like Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office.

Infant Baptism Preparation

Fr. Luyen offers Baptism Preparation Classes for parents/guardians at 10:30 a.m. on the **3rd Saturday of each month**. Dates of Baptism will be arranged at this meeting. Please call Parish Office to register.

Anointing of the Sick

Formerly known as Last Rites or Extreme Unction, the Anointing of the Sick is a ritual of healing, appropriate not only for physical, but also for mental and spiritual sickness. please call Fr. Luyen at the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care Visits While in the Hospital

Privacy legislation in BC prevents the release of information regarding hospital admissions. If you or someone you love are admitted to a hospital and would like a visit from Fr. Luyen or an Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office to leave a message for Marilyn Klizs.

RCIA

If you wish to become Catholic, this coming Fall the parish of St. Edward's will offer a series of meetings called R.C.I.A. which means Rite of Christian initiation for Adults. If you are interested in this journey proposed by the RCIA team we meet every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. If you would like more information Fr. Luyen will be most happy to meet with you. 250-746-6831.

YEAR OF MERCY

St. Edward's Parish

Each Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. we will have Divine Mercy Chaplet, Exposition, Adoration, Benediction and Mass at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Luyen and Fr. Steven will hear confession from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

St. Clare's Monastery

During the Year of Mercy, Fr. Michael and Fr. Joachim, ofm offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Clare's Monastery

Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

and Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

you may call the Franciscan Friary at 778-455-2501.

In Our Parish This Week

Sat	Mar 19th	4:15 p.m. Rosary before Mass at St. Edward's 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Edward's—Elizabeth Ann Kenward	
Sun	Mar 20th	9:00 a.m. Reconciliation or by appointment 9:15 a.m. Rosary before Mass at St. Edward's 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Edward's—Pro Populo 2:00 p.m. Widows' Group Meeting in the Church Hall	
Mon	Mar 21st	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	
Tues	Mar 22nd	8:10 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Clare's 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Clare's—Karen Leber 5:00 p.m. Adoration, Benediction & Rosary 6:30 p.m. Mass at St. Edward's—Peter Leber	
Wed	Mar 23rd	8:10 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Clare's 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Clare's—Doreen Gowans Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Clare's Monastery 6:15 p.m.—Children's Faith Formation cancelled this week	
Holy Thursday	Mar 24th	7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper—Bring your bells Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass	
Good Friday	Mar 25th	9:30 a.m. Climb up Mount Tzouhalem 3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion	
Holy Sat	Mar 26th	9:30 a.m. Morning Prayers at St. Edward's 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil—bring your bells	
Easter	Mar 27th	9:00 a.m. Reconciliation or by appointment 9:15 a.m. Rosary before Mass at St. Edward's 10:00 a.m. Resurrection of the Lord Mass at St. Edward's Pro Populo Easter Egg Hunt for the children after Mass	



CPPC—Companions in Prayer for Persecuted Christians (and Others)

Please continue to pray daily the Companions' Prayer, the Salve Regina and one decade of the Rosary for those being persecuted and martyred in many parts of the world.

Mass Honouring The Blessed Virgin Mary

On the **1st Saturday of each month** at 10:00 a.m. a special Mass is celebrated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Before Mass at 9:30 a.m. we begin with the Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the Holy Rosary. During this Mass there is anointing of the Sick.

Youth Group

All Youth Grades 6 and up are invited to gather after each Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass for prayer, games, singing and fun as an Education in the Faith.

Respect Life:

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:15p.m. in the Church Hall. If you need information, please contact:

Michael Vande Wiel (250-900-5461)

Catechism and Children's Liturgy, Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion

Children's Faith Formation—children are invited to attend gatherings at the Small Gym at Queen of Angles School on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

For more information please contact Paula Hudson at the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
ST. EDWARD'S COUNCIL

President
Leanne Forest
250-597-4450



Membership
Francine Tournier
250-748-9831

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
After Mass on Holy Thursday

For those who would like to spend an hour in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday, please sign your name on the Sign Up Sheet located on the table in the Church Foyer.

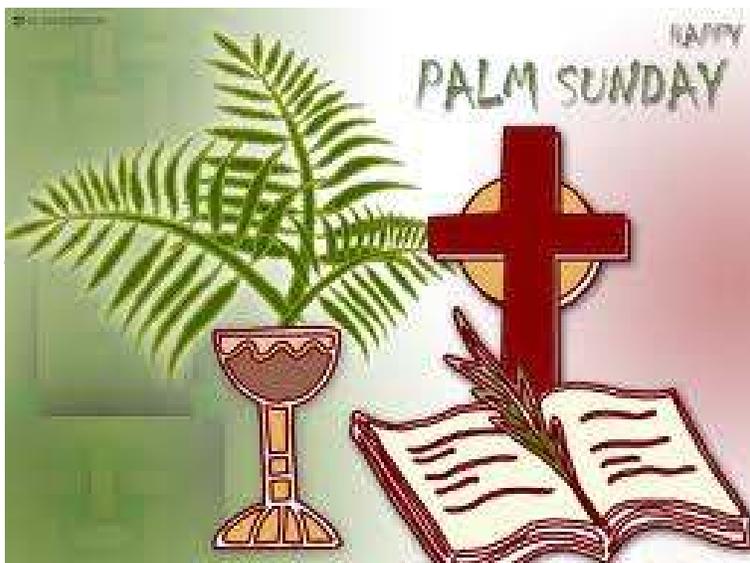
PASTORAL CARE OUTREACH
PROGRAM SESSION 3

The Grieving Process and Ministering to Families

Saturday April 9th, 2016 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria, B.C.

All Pastoral Care Outreach workshops are open to anyone who wants to understand the practical aspects of Pastoral Care, present hospital and homebound parish visitors; who want to become more effective in their ministry; parishioners who look after their own family members; other caregivers; anyone interested in knowing more about their faith and those for whom this program is an opportunity for professional development. For continuity, we recommend that participants attend all 4 workshops, if possible.

Please bring a bag lunch, coffee and tea will be provided.
Contact the parish office to register 1-250-479-7413 or
sjtwoffice@shaw.ca



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

St. Edward the Confessor Council 4253



Jerry Towles 1-250-244-1992,
Grand Knight

K. of C. Hall - Indian Road, Duncan

The K. of C. Hall is available for rent
If you or a group you belong to is interested
please call Bernie Langkammer at 250-748-9333.

There will be no Pancake Sunday next weekend.
See you in April.

As indicated in the Roman Missal, the practice of covering statues, images and crosses during the season of Lent is permitted as an OPTIONAL practice.

Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday
and Good Friday

We ask that all parishioners leave the Church in silence as we contemplate Holy Week and the sacrifice of the Lord.

Thank you
The Liturgy Committee.



Respect Life Committee

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers".

Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be declared a Saint on September 4, 2016. Please pray to Blessed Mother Teresa for a respect for all human life.

The Respect Life Ministry meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:15 p.m. (right after Mass). For more information, call Mike at 250-900-5461, mike.vandewiel@gmail.com or Fr. Steven at 250-597-4714.

March for Life, Victoria, Thursday, May 12th, 2016. More information coming soon.

Letter Writing Campaign supporting Linda Gibbons and Mary Wagner, Canadian pro-life defenders... coming soon to St. Edward's.

ST. EDWARD'S PARISH

Holy Week and Easter 2016



Schedule of Masses and Services

EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY, March 24th

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, Includes washing of the feet. We invite you to and after Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the altar of repose in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Please come and spend some time with the Lord.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25th

(Parish Office Closed)

9:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross Up Mt. Tzouhalem

- Rain or shine we will gather at 9:00 a.m. by the steps of St. Ann's Church, 1775 Tzouhalem Rd., Duncan.
- Opening prayer and song at St. Ann's Church
- Bring water, lunch and appropriate clothing.

A prayer service, with veneration of the Cross. will be held at the top of the mountain. This is a steep climb so one should be in good physical condition.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOGS AT HOME.

*More information contact Mary Hof
mhof126@gmail.com or call 743-4074.*

3:00 p.m. St. Edward's Parish

Celebration of

the Lord's Passion

includes Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

HOLY SATURDAY 8:30 p.m., March 26th, Easter Vigil

Includes Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist;

If you would like your Easter basket blessed then place it in front of the altar after Mass.

We invite you to bring bells to ring during the "Gloria".

EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Resurrection of the Lord, March 27th

Bring containers for Holy Water and

If you would like your Easter basket blessed then place it in front of the altar after Mass.

We invite you to bring bells to ring during the "Gloria".

Children's Easter Egg Hunt after Mass.



He Is Risen



DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

The Diocese of Victoria
is pleased to welcome

Dr. Moira McQueen LLB MDiv PhD

Executive Director of the

Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute

Dr. Moira McQueen teaches moral theology in the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College. She is interested in the interdisciplinary aspects of theology, law and medicine as they apply in daily life. In 2015 Pope Francis appointed Dr. McQueen as an Auditor at the Synod of Bishops on the Family, and in September 2014 he appointed her as a new member to the International Theological Commission for a five-year term. In July 2004, Dr. McQueen was appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute.

Dr. McQueen will be visiting the Diocese of Victoria from April 11 – 13, 2016. She will be speaking about ***Current issues regarding end-of-life decision making*** to members of the Clergy, and also to hospital staff at St. Joseph's General Hospital in Comox.

In addition, Dr. McQueen will speak at two parish sessions that the public is welcome to attend:

Monday, April 11, 2016 – 7:00 pm

**Christ the King Parish
1599 Tunner Drive, Courtenay**

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 – 7:00 pm

**St. Patrick's Parish
2060 Haultain Street, Victoria**

For more information, please call (250) 479-1331 or visit the Diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org.

LENTEN TRIVIA CONTEST FOR KIDS

Test your knowledge of the Catholic Faith... and have a chance to win a tablet!!

Who: Kids aged 9—18

When: Any time throughout Lent

How: It's all online!

Entering the contest is as easy as clicking a mouse, and will take you less than 15 minutes.

Visit www.rcdvictoria.org or go directly to the contest site:

www.onlineexambuilder.com/Lenten-knowledge-of-catholic-faith-trivia-contest/exam-18019

Participants will have a chance to win a tablet! The draw for the tablet will take place and the Winner will be announced during the Easter Season.

More Information: gpalahicky@cisdv.bc.ca

Bishop's Gala

We are pleased to announce the details for the Bishop's Gala, which will take place on **Saturday, April 30, 2016**, at Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall in Victoria. The Gala will open with a champagne reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by a sit-down dinner with entertainment by award-winning Victoria-based jazz singer Maureen Washington.

The purpose of the Gala is to raise funds for West Coast Missions: specifically, to fund two Religious of the Virgin Mary Sisters who will arrive this summer from the Philippines to minister in Ahousaht, located on the east side of Flores Island in Clayoquot Sound. The average annual cost to support two Sisters in our Diocese is \$60,000. Our Gala will celebrate and financially support this renewed initiative of pastoral presence, and reaffirm our commitment to this journey with our Nuu-chah-nulth sisters and brothers.

Tickets are \$100 per person; tables of 8 are available. Tax receipts will be issued in the amount of \$25 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased through EventBrite (www.bishopsgala.eventbrite.ca) or by phoning the Pastoral Centre at (250) 479-1331. ***There is a limited number of tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.***

The Bishop's Gala promises fun, friendship, amazing food and world-class entertainment, all surrounding the worthy goal of supporting the missionary outreach of our Diocese. Gather together your family and friends for this exciting event!

Bishop's Gala: Auction Items

The Bishop's Gala will include Silent and Live Auctions to help us reach our fundraising goal. We are seeking items for these Auctions and would be grateful for your generosity. Please contact Char Deslippe by email to bcdeslippe@shaw.ca; or by phone, (250) 381-5839, if you are able to contribute.

Retrouvaille Vancouver Marriage

Weekend April 1 - 3, 2016

There is still space!

Retrouvaille is an affordable program that provides couples with the tools to repair ALL kinds of marriage problems. Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples avoid separation and regain a joyful marriage. You do not need to be Catholic to attend. For confidential information or to register for the 7 week Lower Mainland program commencing the weekend of April 1 - 3, 2016, call [604-530-6710](tel:604-530-6710), email vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org or visit www.HelpOurMarriageBC.com.

No Family Mass in March

Please note that the Family Mass for March has been cancelled.



YEAR OF MERCY

-A way to be involved-

**MAKE A COMMITMENT TO AVAIL YOURSELF OF GOD'S MERCY
IN THE GREAT SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

*Here are 5 ways to live mercy during the Jubilee Year.
Try randomly selecting one each week and put it into
practice.*

- 1) If you didn't mean to be a pain in the neck to someone, admit you were and ask the person to forgive you.
- 2) Take a tip from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and carry around \$5.00 Starbucks and McDonald's gift cards for the homeless.
- 3) Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family.

Prayers for Life and the Family

(National Pastoral Initiative)

Emptied Jesus,
You let go of everything
that we might be filled
with the hope of new life.
Help us to let go
of what prevents us
from finding life in You,
that we may become
the people You created us to be.
Show us the small ways
by which we can also choose
emptying and humility,
and draw life from finding You
in the smallest sacrifices of love.

Amen.

FRIDAY, March 25th - 9:00 AM

Please meet on the steps of St. Ann's church, 9:00 a.m., where we will gather and have our opening prayer and song before we journey to the top of the mountain. We will stop at the 14 stations for prayer and reflection. A children's version will also be read, so parents, encourage your kids to bring their loud voices. At the top we will have a prayer service with Veneration of the Cross.

The journey is not an easy one, with logs over the old road and it is very steep in places. Please make sure you are in good physical condition. Anyone is welcome to come for the opening song and prayer and journey to the first station and return, after that the climb gets tougher.

Please dress for the weather, bring water, and a light lunch if you want to stay and enjoy the view after, but this is a day of fasting and abstinence.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOGS AT HOME

For more info contact Mary Hof, mhof126@gmail.com, or 250-743-4074. This will be my 24th year of organizing this journey, it's being a real blessing for me to do this.

Mary Hof

Cuba—Slide Show

Mary Hof will be showing slides and a movie, on their recent trip to Cuba. The show will take place Saturday April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. at the Christian Reform Church, 930 trunk Rd, Duncan. All are welcome, cost would be a item to their church food bank.

For more info contact Mary at 250 743 4074 or email mhof126@gmail.com



Update on Saqat Family

Below is an update on the Saqat family, I know we at St. Edwards are also praying that it won't be much longer before they arrive. Please keep the family and the committee from St. Andrews in your prayers.

Mary Hof, representative for St. Edwards

St. Andrew's Cathedral Refugee Committee update re Saqat Family

Our newspapers and extensive mass media outlets have been filled with the tragic stories of people around the world who are leaving their homes, fighting for their lives and moving with a small glimmer of hope for a new and better life. They leave behind a former life, taking with them only what is on their backs and only what they can carry. Often they can only carry their children. Their futures may be uncertain, but they feel that even this uncertainty is better than the terror of their past.

Our Saqat newcomer family is one of these families. They are waiting patiently for our government to accept them. St. Andrew's refugee committee is blessed to have excellent and influential people working on our behalf to bring the Saqat family to Victoria and we are making incredible headway considering the following;

1) Canadian government still insisting on Syrian refugee families. The Saqat family is Iraqi but this has not hindered our ongoing advocacy for them. We are making progress.

2) The Liberal government says they are on track to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of next week, with between 35,000 and 50,000 expected this year. (see web link) <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/02/23/mccallum-to-reveal-new-refugee-numbers-by-march-9.html>

3) St. Andrew's Cathedral family is Iraqi and Catholic, in a refugee camp, have their 'G' number and UNHCR number. We have been puzzled and concerned about the bureaucratic process; however, we remain *very confident* and grateful to God for the process we are making with Government departments so as to have the family here soon.

In case you are wondering, yes there are newcomers arriving in Victoria. It appears that government sponsored refugees take precedence over privately sponsored refugees. These newcomers are Syrian Muslims.

As Chair of the refugee committee I am deeply grateful to the refugee committee team for the incredible work that has been done thus far to have the Saqat family home literally painted, furnished and ready for their arrival.

Do we have a date for their arrival? No. Do we believe this will occur sooner than later because of the advocating being done by members of the committee? Yes. The advocating has reached a delicate critical point and with the Saqats we invite you to pray for their continued safety and soon arrival to Victoria.

Please go to the following video to hear from an Iraqi Priest who was captured, tortured and is speaking out against the genocide of Christians in the Middle East. Do not let your silence be the contributing factor to the genocide.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3PLb9gPNB8&feature=youtu.be>

Lenten Blessings,

Annette Turgeon (Chairperson St. Andrew's Cathedral)