



# Diocesan NEWS



News and Views of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kamloops



## Diocesan News

A publication of the Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Kamloops

The Diocesan News is an associate member of Canadian Catholic News(CCN).

### MANAGEMENT BOARD

Most Reverend Joseph P. Nguyen, Bishop of Kamloops – Publisher; Linda Filek – Editor and Flori Betita – Advisory Member.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Diocesan News seeks to increase the unity of the people of the diocese by providing current information about matters of Church teaching and policy, in addition to diocesan and parish news. News will be as up-to-date as possible, given the publication schedule, and generally will reflect relevant Church issues affecting this diocese. Diocesan and parish news will inform the people of the diocese about the activities of individuals or groups within the Church. The purpose of publishing this news is to celebrate activities that foster the life of the spirit within the diocese.

As publisher of The Diocesan News, the bishop is responsible for its content. Any material submitted for publication is subject to revision following editorial review for suitability, style and accuracy. The decision to publish unsolicited material depends on its relevance to the overall mission of The Diocesan News and availability of space. In all cases, contributors are urged to be concise and to strive for the highest standards of accuracy and fairness.

### GUIDE TO WRITTEN LENGTH

Most news can be told effectively in 300 words or less. Letters to the Editor should be as brief as possible.

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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### The Diocesan News

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## Bishop Blesses Diocese and Kamloops

On March 29, 2020 Bishop Joseph Nguyen celebrated Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral for the Diocese of Kamloops. After Mass there was Adoration and Benediction. During Adoration, Bishop Joseph upheld the Blessed Sacrament as a blessing over the City of Kamloops and the entire Diocese of Kamloops.



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## IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SHRINE & RETREAT CENTRE



### DAILY MASS

8 a.m.

### SUNDAY MASS

11 a.m.

Rosary 10:30 a.m.

### Words from our secondary patron, St. John Vianney

*'Humility is to the various virtues  
what the chain is to the Rosary:  
take away the chain and the beads  
are scattered; remove Humility and  
all virtues vanish.'*

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*"All love craves unity. As the highest  
peak of love in the human order is the  
unity of husband and wife in the flesh,  
so the highest unity in the Divine  
order is the unity of the soul and  
Christ in communion."*

*Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish – Kamloops BC Our Role During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Friends,

We started the year 2020 with great hope and dreams but a new virus came our way. The government reacted and told us to hide away. Everything came to a standstill.

It is said, we fell asleep in one world, and woke up in another. Suddenly Disney is out of magic, Paris is no longer romantic, New York does not stand up anymore, the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress, and Mecca is empty. The church doors are closed for all the faithful.

Hugs and kisses suddenly became weapons, and not visiting parents and friends became an Act of Love. Suddenly we realized that power, beauty, and money are worthless and cannot give us the oxygen we are fighting for.

Today, we think we are not needed. But our God is a loving God and He loves all of us. We cannot go to church. The only questions people have are, "When will our churches be open?" and "When can we go back to our church to participate in the Mass or to pray?"

Presently, we cannot go to church, but God has come to Our house which was something we did not realize in our life. We often took things for granted and today we realize the importance of Mass and prayers.

During this pandemic, we the community of OLPH, have embraced the opportunity to offer on-line Masses for our faithful. We have prepared videos for the children that attend our Catholic school. During the month of May, we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. On Sunday May 3rd we installed and crowned the statue of

Our Lady of the Rosary that was made by Nathan Flores, a parishioner and student of St. Ann's Academy. A beautiful gift of faith, hope and love for all of us.

We have kept our church open for the people to spend time in prayer.

It has given me the opportunity as a pastor, to reach out to the people to make phone calls to the parishioners to inquire about their health and well-being.

I believe, this virus also gave us an opportunity to learn how to smile.

We started clapping to say thank you and calling our parents more often.

Today, we physically distance ourselves from one another but spiritually we are united because we are all children of one God. We pray that our loving God brings us healing and peace to this world.

*Fr. Vijay Martin, OCD  
Pastor of OLPH Parish*



Statue of Our Lady of the Rosary made by Nathan Flores, a parishioner and student of St. Ann's Academy

## St. Ann's Parish – Quesnel BC Moving Forward in this Moment of Crisis

“Necessity,” they say, “is the mother of invention” and bearing this in mind, St. Ann's Parish Quesnel is not left out in this global struggle as communities around the world are considering the right steps forward. We are working hard to reach our parishioners in this “new normal” and, like other various dioceses and parishes, we are moving forward in this period of crisis without being overwhelmed, as Covid-19 has given us new ways of relating and evangelizing.

We Are:

- Reaching out to parishioners through streaming live Sunday Mass at 10 am
- Adoring Jesus in the Holy Sacrament from 9:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday
- Accepting appointments for the sacrament of reconciliation
- Maintaining social distancing
- Providing a clean, safe environment for parishioners by placing hand sanitizer and surface wipes in the church foyer.
- Reducing regular Office hours to twice a week Monday and Friday 9:30 to 12:30
- Discontinuing bulletins and utilizing mass emails to keep parishioners apprised of any changes.
- Holding Parish Leadership Meetings through Zoom and What's App.
- Accepting Parishioners' donations through the mailbox, and sharing YouTube videos with one another of their favorite speakers (Bishop Barron, Fr. Michael Schmidz, and Fr. Michel Rodrigue, to name a few.)

*Reverend Vincent Asomugha*



## News from St. Jude's Parish – 100 Mile House BC

Despite the cancellation of parish gatherings due to the Covid 19 pandemic, St Jude Parishioners have kept in contact via the internet. We have had parish council meetings and finance council meetings via ZOOM. I have kept in contact with the parishioners via emails and sometimes phone calls. The parishioners have been in contact to make sure that their priest is safe and healthy. For instance a couple provided the priest with N 97 mask which the priest has worn while visiting the sick at the hospital. Some parishioners have come around for the sacrament of reconciliation which was administered while keeping the required distance.

YouTube live stream Masses are offered which the parishioners really appreciate.

Thanks and God Bless  
*Fr. Emmanuel Onumadu*



Fr. Emmanuel celebrating Mass



LEFT: Fr. Emmanuel hiking up the mountain behind the parish property MIDDLE: Fr. Emmanuel on top of the mountain(practicing absolute social distancing RIGHT: A view of the parish from the mountaintop

## News from Holy Family Parish – Kamloops BC

As with many other parish communities, life has not been the same during this time. Sunday morning, which normally witnesses the gathering of hundreds, is now becoming a quiet silent experience. In trying to find a word that best describes this “new normal”, the best word I have found is: “strange”. Strange to be celebrating Mass without the participation of the Faithful, strange not to be sharing dialogue and hospitality after Mass and strange to be so disconnected. Yet, with all of this, we are trying to reach out in different ways.

Our Faith Formation Program continues by remote. Thank you to all who have worked to ensure our young people are receiving religious instruction. I have connected with our parents and Faith Formation children via a Zoom meeting; there are also plans for me to join a Zoom class with our Confirmation Class.

While respecting social distancing and the provincial limit for gathering, the church is open for periods of time for private prayer on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) is available on Saturdays from 4:00pm-4:30pm.

Holy Week Celebrations were Live-Streamed. Sunday Mass before and following Holy Week are taped and available on YouTube (See Parish Website). There is also a taped message to the parents and children attending St. Ann's and our Faith Formation classes. Preaching to a cell phone and an empty church is quite an experience for me. A huge “thank you” to Matt deFouw for facilitating this each week.

A parish bulletin is posted on line each week with hard copies available on the week-end.



Erin, our secretary, working from her home office

Our secretary Erin, is working remote from home. Phone calls during parish office hours are transferred to her. Thank you Erin for all the extra effort during this time!

Most of my regular schedule has continued during this time. During the week I offer Mass privately as indicated in the bulletin and most of my duties at the Chancery continue in the same manner.

Sincerely,  
*Fr. Fred Weisbeck*



ABOVE: Fr. Fred celebrating Mass — recorded for viewing on Holy Family YouTube Channel LEFT: Our “touchless” mailbox! Thank you for your continued contributions

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# The Bishop's Message



May 13, 2020

Dear Clergy, Religious and faithful of the Diocese of Kamloops,

We are living through this unprecedented pandemic crisis and we may continue to be challenged for some time with ongoing disruptions, distress, isolation, and sadness especially around our empty churches, postponement and cancellation of many celebrations, events and occasions. It has definitely brought great challenges for all of us.

I would like to thank the clergy for being a living example of love, goodness and care as they continue to carry out their ministry to serve by using all available means to reach

out to their parishioners. I am deeply grateful to the faithful of the diocese for affirming and supporting your priests. I am so moved by many of you who are participating in the Masses offered by live stream and making great efforts to stay connected with the Church and sustaining your spiritual lives despite the limitations and difficulties we are facing.

This coronavirus pandemic has shaped the way we look at things and live out our faith. With trusting faith, we believe that God is still in charge and we trust that nothing happens outside of his knowledge. No matter what besets us, God is always with us. He promises, out of love for us, that He can turn something evil to utmost good, ultimately for our salvation.

This is the time for us to come out of our comfort zone and to grow in faith and virtue: with humility, we declare our need and dependence on God, knowing that life is very fragile, that a tiny coronavirus could knock down even the strongest or most powerful person in the world. With gratitude, we should never take things for granted. With prudence, we prioritize things in the order of what is more important in life. With charity, we grow in kindness to one another.

When we see and walk by faith and not by sight, the suffering and sacrifice that we offer to God in this challenging time is not in vain. Every priest and I offer our private Mass daily for you and with you, drawing all of us – faithful, religious and clergy into one with Christ united in love. Together we humble ourselves before God and seek Him for guidance and grace to follow Him more closely, serve Him more faithfully and love Him more dearly in this difficult time. We wait with certain hope until we can come together to celebrate the Eucharist with a full church again.

With prayers,

*+ Joseph Phuong Nguyen*

**✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen**  
BISHOP OF KAMLOOPS



# Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine – Cache Creek BC Parish Life in Ashcroft, Clinton and at the Shrine During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The advent of Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown of activities in the society have practically kept all people in their homes. Community religious activities are suspended. Stay home, practice social distancing, wash your hands as often as possible, use sanitizer and use a face mask, all to avoid being infected or transmitting the Coronavirus to another person. As a result of this, fear and trepidation have gripped the faithful, especially our seniors.

Given the above situation, we do all we can to ensure that the faithful in our three communities are not left on their own, without access to the sacraments. Hence the sacraments that can be administered with proper social distancing, like the sacrament of reconciliation. Individuals who approach me for Confession, received it. To encourage private devotion before the Blessed Sacrament, we have the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Shrine. Some parishioners have availed themselves of this opportunity of having personal moments with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Since Mothers' day could not be celebrated as a community liturgically this year, a group of parishioners came to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes (at the Shrine) for devotion. Social distancing was maintained.

I have, in the course of this lock down, been able to give telephone calls to the faithful in Cache Creek (Immaculate Heart Shrine), Clinton (St. Peter the Apostle), and Ashcroft (St. Gerard). The calls seek to inquire about their well being and give assurance of my prayer.

In Ashcroft, the Parish Church is open every Tuesday from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm for private individual prayers.

Happily, the faithful in Cache Creek, Ashcroft and Clinton are keeping safe and there are no cases of Covid-19 among them. I can say, the Catholic faithful in these communities are Coronavirus free.

May God bless and keep us.  
*Fr. Udoka Chris Nwosu*



# Sacred Heart Catholic Church – Lumby BC

Even though all public celebrations at Sacred Heart Lumby's Parish have been suspended for now, our faith life and community continues on, just in a way that is acceptable to the new "normal." The parish bulletin is still published electronically weekly, and for those who cannot access the internet, I will deliver a printed version. As for those who may be feeling disconnected, I will reach out to them with a call to keep in touch. You can also find daily reflections by Fr. Swann on social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and six different podcast platforms. If you so wish to make donations, you may send them directly to the parish, in which we are very grateful for!

Thanks!  
*Fr. Swann Kim*




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## Sacred Hart Parish – Merritt BC

### The Condition of Things in My Parish During the Lockdown for Coronavirus

It was late 2019 that I started hearing the news about the coronavirus in China. After some weeks other news came saying that it had arrived in Europe, to be precise Italy. I was still taking it lightly, but it began to sound scary when many people became infected and began to die. However, I was not thinking that it would affect Canada and the entire globe.

Sometime in the month of March the news was that it was in the United States of America, and within one week Canada was affected. At this juncture I was not yet thinking that it would amount to locking everywhere down till my friend who lives in the U. S. A. told me that everything

and everywhere including the Churches had been locked down there. Canada joined in the lockdown the next week.

The lockdown was something I never experienced before so I never felt the seriousness till the preceding Sundays and eventually weekdays when I had to celebrate Mass by myself without the congregation (as can be seen in the picture I took for record's sake), and unable to go to the other parishes to give them Masses.

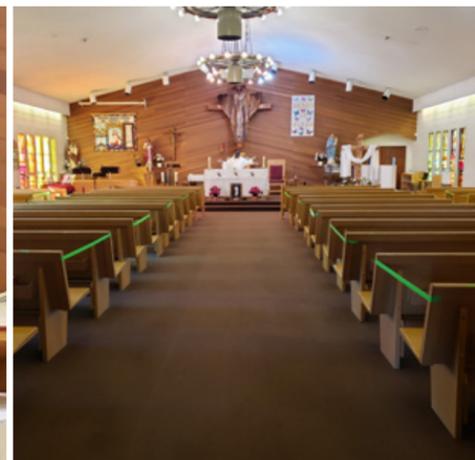
There was confusion in the parish as there were many calls from parishioners, while some were asking whether it was the end of the world others were asking how I felt and when this will end.

Personally, there used to be this special feeling of joy in me when I rise up every morning remembering that I would celebrate Mass, especially on Sundays. But during this time, getting up in the morning and it occurring to me that I would be celebrating alone, reduced my joy.

The occasions worst touching were Holy Week, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. The parishioners I talked to who watched both the Holy Week and Easter Sunday ceremonies and Mass felt as odd as I did in these occasions. Another time myself and some others felt bad was when they could not bear it any more so they decided to attend one Sunday Mass. I could not send them away, moreover there were very few of them so they kept the social distance. I informed them before I started Mass that I would not give them Holy Communion. Some of them shed tears and it made me feel terrible. To avoid a repeat of this I had to celebrate Mass the next Sunday at 7 AM instead of the normal 9 AM. Those who came stayed when it was after 9 AM they knew that I was not going to come so they said their prayers and left. Incredible! However they always have my homily every Sunday. Reconciliation is on schedule and according to the current social distancing rule.

Coronavirus pandemic and its concomitant effects have taught a very hard lesson to the entire humanity; which is that anything can happen at any time which can change the world and people's life conditions. I am aware that individuals do experience such sharp negative changes in life but what makes this more difficult is that it hurts the entire humanity at the same time. As I pray that it ends and does not happen, I am wishing that it will bring conversion to many souls globally.

*Fr. Vernantius Ononiwu*



## St. John Vianney Parish – Kamloops BC and Our Lady of Lourdes – Heffley Creek BC

The COVID-19 Virus outbreak has affected us universally bringing about uncertainty and has enforced us to embrace changes to our normal way of living. During these unprecedented times, Pope Francis reminds us that this doesn't mean that the Proclamation of the Gospel stops.

Following the provincial and diocesan guidelines and the enforcement of self-isolation policy, our celebration of the sacraments, meetings and events were cancelled. Live streaming online Masses or Mass on Television at home was encouraged to strengthen our faith in these troubled times. To overcome the challenge, we established different ways for the Word of God to be a continued source of spiritual nourishment for our Parishioners. In order to pray better, every Sunday the Homily was emailed to the Parishioners. On Sundays, when Fr. Jaison Celebrates the Eucharist in the Church, Parishioners are encouraged to pray the Rosary at the same time to show solidarity and unity through prayer.

We may be isolated from one another, but we are together in spirit! In spite of difficulties that we may encounter, there is constant communication from the Pastor to the Parishioners. Everyone is in

touch with each other through different means of communication. This time of self-isolation has also been an opportunity for parishioners to do corporal and spiritual works of mercy by volunteering to help to outreach the elders of our parish to supply their needs, keeping in mind the social distancing aspect.

As we embrace the new normal living, we wish to come together soon and to pray as a community, which we dearly miss.

May the Risen Lord bless us and keep us all safe and healthy.

*Fr. Jaison Tellis, OCD*



## Life at St. Joseph's Catholic Church – Salmon Arm BC

Despite the shut-down, due to social distancing and the prohibition against group-gatherings because of COVID-19, we at St. Joseph's Church are still finding ways to maintain parish life in some form. The Parish website has become indispensable as the primary means of communicating with members of St. Joseph's; keeping the faithful informed about significant celebrations, providing web addresses to access on-line Masses and enabling Fr. Dale to disseminate his homilies and reflections.

Although public Masses are not presently happening, some of the faithful gather in the Church, while exercising social distancing, on Fridays from 9:00am to 3:00pm for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Dale has been taking appointments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is heard in a Parish Hall meeting room, set up for that purpose, during the weekdays. Appointments are also taken for the Anointing Sacrament.

Bruce Weicker, a parishioner of St. Joseph's, is animating an on-line study program on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si - Care for our Common Home*. This study program consists of four forty-five minute presentations, provided via ZOOM. The study program begins on May 25th and will conclude on June 15th, and will be originating from St. Joseph's Church here in Salmon Arm.

St. Joseph's Parish Centre is usually a hub of activity, not only for parish groups and gatherings, but also for various community groups within the city. As these groups have not been gathering here because of COVID-19, it was felt that it was an ideal time to re-carpet three of the parish rooms, as the present carpeting was badly stained, wearing out and even becoming a tripping hazard. So last week the old carpet was removed and replaced by new carpeting. We are now ready to receive our Parish and larger community gatherings and groups once we are given the 'Green Light' to open again.

*Fr. Dale Normandeau*



# Catholic Women's League of Canada – Kamloops Diocesan Council



## 2020 CONVENTIONS CANCELLED

Members of the Catholic Women's League across Canada were disappointed, as we, along with many other organizations, had to cancel all our conventions for 2020; including our 100th Annual National Convention to be held in Montreal this August, due to the coronavirus. Fear not! We shall meet again!

The current situation also affects our local parish council's and their ability to host the many fundraising events, social activities, workshops and meetings held throughout the year. However, this does not stop the dedicated women of the CWL as we brainstorm to find new and innovative ways to do our duty for God and Canada. We are women of 'hope' – women of 'prayer' – women of 'passion' – women of 'service and action' – there is work to be done and we trust in the support of our members and the church community.

We are EXCITED! In 2022 it will be BC and Yukon's provincial council's turn to host the National convention and **for the first time in history** – the convention will be held outside the lower mainland – in **Kelowna!** Although this is two years away the convention planning committees are working diligently to ensure attendees have an extraordinary experience. You know that money you saved up for Montreal...one should consider using it for this 2022 convention!

**National Strategic Plan** is in full swing - working groups are continuing their commitments as we work towards revitalization of the League. The Year 2 working groups have been determined and are ready to go. Current updates can be found on the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under 'quick links' on the home page see link 'Implementation of the Strategic Plan.'

### **Congratulations, Thanks and God Bless!**

Thanks and God Bless to our dear Life Member, Pat Dorigo, who has been so faithful and willing to serve at the Diocesan Level as our Life Member Liaison for several years. We know Pat will remain an important member of the League, and we treasure her attendance at any CWL event.



Congratulations to Nancy Simms, who will fill the position of Life Member Liaison on the CWL Diocesan executive, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Technology allows us to stay connected – with conference calls, zoom meetings, social-distancing meetings, (see above picture) communiqués, emails, and of course the telephone! We are increasing our computer skills and learning new ways to communicate but we know nothing can replace the human touch or attending Mass as a community and receiving the Eucharist, we all miss.

However, we are blessed. As expressed by our Diocesan President, Diane Nadeau: *'I am so thankful to our priests who have been very creative in the technology area to reach into our homes with prayers, Masses and other spiritual opportunities.'*

*Submitted by T Mae Sinclair  
Diocesan CWL Communications Chair*



Sacred Heart WL in Spring

## Sacred Heart Parish – Williams Lake BC

Here in Williams Lake both Fr. Raphael and I miss being with the community and sharing the Faith with the parishioners. In order to maintain some connection with the community we have begun streaming Mass every day at 11am (without signing into Facebook you can watch the Mass live or later at Sacred Heart Williams Lake Catholic Church's Facebook page). In addition to regularly streamed Masses we have and continue to reach out to a large number of our parishioners through phone and email to check in with them. Further, Cathy, our office administrator, routinely sends out parish updates, often filled with local good news and pictures. Although we couldn't celebrate with the community, we celebrated the Triduum as best we could – Fr. Raphael even drove to one of the local Indian Bands (over a hundred kilometers one way) for each liturgy so as to ensure that the graces of the Triduum, while privately celebrated, were nonetheless celebrated in the community.

Our local foodbank, run by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, while observing all proper social distancing norms, continues to operate on Sundays, handing out soup and sandwiches in the local park; and on Mondays running the food bank for those in need. Sacred Heart School, while schooling in a new way (online) continues its operations and we're very grateful for all that the staff and families have done in these challenging times.

Personally, I have used this time to connect with friends and family in a greater way, especially friends and family who are alone and isolated at this time. In addition to connecting with others my walking has increased, as I try to explore more of the city, praying for all the people of the city as I walk by. Further, my ferocious feline fellow keeps me well entertained, not the least in which by making me constantly clean up after him (he's shedding in a crazy, possibly even malicious fashion). To all of our parishioners we miss you and are praying for you every day.

In Christ,  
Rev. Paul Simms



ABOVE: Church decorated for Easter  
BELOW: Linus – Terror of Mice and Men



## Mother Ann's News:

We are keeping everyone in our prayers during this pandemic. We hope soon we will be able to have daily Mass. It was a joy to join Bishop Joseph, on line, for the prayers and Consecration of our Diocese and Canada to Mary, Mother of the Church. Through her intercession we pray that all the children of God find peace and strength in this crisis.

We in our 'isolation' are busy as ever, preparing for a garden and other spring duties. This year the voles made a super abundant mound tracks during the winter which we flattened with the tractor bucket or by hand with a rake. It makes it easier when it comes to mowing.

We thank everyone for their love and support. With this beautiful weather the workmen have started on the foundation for the new garage and workshop.

**May you all be healthy and enjoy a beautiful summer. God Bless.**

## 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel' Celebration:

The scheduled Mass of celebration is still set for Sunday July 19th at 2:00 p.m., and we are praying it shall take place. However, the refreshment social to follow the Mass may be very limited or cancelled depending on the protocols. Please watch for announcements in your parish bulletins, Tuesday fax from the Chancery office, or on the Sisters website - regarding any changes.

## Coming Soon:

The Sisters are developing 'Daily Mass Enrollment' cards, as gifts for all occasions such as Mother's Day. They will also have 'Perpetual Enrollment Memorial cards' for the deceased and 'One Year' enrollments for other reasons such as thinking of you during an illness or a prayer for you as you celebrate an anniversary, etc. The recipient will be included in the daily remembrance during the Masses offered by the Carmelite Nuns of the Carmel of St. Joseph in Armstrong. We are so blessed to have the Carmelite Sisters available to pray for us and our loved ones. Please contact the Monastery to enquire about availability and other details.

## Guild News:

We are thrilled to see an increase in membership. God Bless all those that renewed their memberships and WELCOME to our new members. Memberships are so important this year as many fundraising events may be cancelled due to the current situation. Be advised that the Guild donates all funds collected to the Sisters less some very minimal expenses.

It is never too late to join the Guild. Active membership is \$25.00 for the year, and honorary memberships are \$75.00. We have an email address and accept payment by E-transfer for memberships and / or donations. [carmelofstjosephsguild@gmail.com](mailto:carmelofstjosephsguild@gmail.com)



## How About Some History? 2019 was the Guild's 25th Anniversary!

*Our Lady of Mount Carmel Guild* was originally formed in 1994 when Bishop Sabatini installed the original Officers Paul Ross, Sharon Shaw and Mabel Flore. In 1996 the name was changed to *Carmel of St. Joseph Guild*. Laurent and Denise Aubin, Officers at that time, created the constitution and by-laws. Bishop Sabatini was a great supporter of the Carmelite Sisters and helped promote the Guild throughout the Diocese. Father John Dunn was the Guild's spiritual advisor from 1996 to 2000. Subsequent Presidents have been Hubert Oliver, Randy Murray, Lorraine Pilon, Margaret Nadeau, John Scott, Bruce Lines and T Mae Sinclair.

In 2011 the first article of the 'Carmelite Corner' appeared in the Diocesan News, providing readers throughout the Diocese with news and information about the Carmel of St Joseph Monastery and Guild activities. The Guild is made up of dedicated people from our diocese, our province and other parts of Canada, who support the Sisters through membership fees, donations, fund raising and manual work.

**Mass is celebrated every day at the monastery at 7:30 a.m., you are welcome to attend.**

*The Carmelite Nuns of Armstrong are deeply concerned about the problems and the difficulties of the people of God in the surrounding area and around the world. Everyone is invited to phone, write, email or visit the Monastery to request prayers for special intentions.*

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Mail to **Carmel of St. Joseph Monastery,**  
**4815 Salmon River Road, Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1B4**

*Submitted by T M Sinclair, Guild President (Carmel of St. Joseph's Guild c/o 4815 Salmon River Road Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1B4)*



# Make Your Defense: The Assumption of Mary

Rev. Dale Normandeau, Pastor at St. Joseph's, Salmon Arm / Parochial Administrator - Our Lady of Fatima, Sicamous and Our Lady of the Lake, Blind Bay

The fourth and final Marian dogma concerns Mary's Assumption into heaven. This doctrine was formally defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950, in his Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* (The Most Bountiful God). In this document Pope Pius XII wrote the following:

*We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.* (Pius XII. *Munificentissimus Deus*. Nov. 1, 1950. ¶ 44).

This is the fourth, and so far last, Marian doctrine to be formally defined; thus raised to the level of a dogma of the faith. The other three dogmas, Mary the Mother of God, her perpetual Virginity and her Immaculate Conception, have been explored in my previous essays.

Before proceeding, however, it might be helpful to explore the difference between a doctrine and a dogma. Elizabeth Hruska, in the *Catholic Exchange* website, offers the following definitions:

*The term "doctrine" can be used generally to refer to all of the Church's teachings. In addition, we can say that dogma is a subset of doctrine...A doctrine is a teaching of the universal church proposed as necessary for belief by the faithful. Dogmas, properly speaking, are such teachings that are set forth to be believed as divinely revealed* (*Catechism*, no. 88; cf. 891-892). (Elizabeth Hruska. "Difference Between Doctrine

and Dogma." *catholicexchange.com*).

So what exactly does one mean by Mary's Assumption? One means to say that Mary anticipates the glorification of our own flesh at the end of time. This was granted to Mary at the end of her earthly life. But unlike Christ, who ascended into heaven through his own power, "Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son. For that reason we use two different words: the *Ascension* of Christ and the *Assumption* of Mary" (Rev. James M. Keane, O.S.M. "The Assumption of Our Lady." *Immaculata*. Marytown Press, Aug. 1980. p 3-5).

*"Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son."*

Mary's Assumption is best understood as a consequence of her Immaculate Conception, that she was free of the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. *Catholic Answers*, an apologetic apostolate, described the connection between the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption in the following way:

*Over the centuries, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church spoke often about*

*the fittingness of Mary's Assumption. The speculative ground considered include Mary's freedom from sin [Immaculate Conception], her Motherhood of God, her perpetual virginity, and - the key - her union with the salvific work of Christ.*

*But there is more than just fittingness. After all, if Mary is immaculately conceived, then it would follow that she would not suffer the corruption of the grave, which is a consequence of sin [Gen. 3:17, 19].* (Catholic Answers. "Immaculate Conception and Assumption." Chap. 15 in *The Essential Catholic Survival Guide: Answers to Tough Questions About the Faith*, San Diego: Catholic Answers Inc., 2005): 126-132).

Although the dogmatic definition of Mary's Assumption is only 70 years old, it corresponds to what the Church always understood about Mary, going back to ancient times. This is confirmed in the writings of the Church Fathers, like St. Gregory of Tours (c. 538-594), who referred to Mary's Assumption in his *Eight Books of Miracles* when he wrote *the glorious Mother of Christ, who is believed to be a virgin both before and after she bore him, has as we said...been translated into paradise, amid the singing of the angelic choirs, wither the Lord preceded her* (ibid. 1:8). St. Epiphanius of Salamis (c. 310-320-403), a 4th century Cyprian Bishop, affirmed his belief in Mary's Assumption when he wrote the following in his classic *Panarion: Like the bodies of the saints, however, she has been held in honor for her character and understanding. And if I should say anything more in her praise, she is like Elijah, who was [a] virgin from his mother's womb, always remained so, and was taken up, but has not seen death* (ibid. 79).

One will not find, however, in the writings of the Church Fathers, abundant references to, or defences of, Mary's Assumption. The reason for this is simple:

*Cont. pg 14*

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## Making Your Defence cont'd

this Church doctrine was never questioned. This doctrine was accepted by the Church faithful, so there was no need to defend it against any nay-sayers.

This universal acceptance of Mary's Assumption by Christians today, however, no longer exists. "Bible-alone" Christians question the truth of the Mary's Assumption because it is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible. While this is true, there are at least two assumption-like events referred to in scripture. In *Genesis 5:18-24*, Enoch, an ancestor of Noah and a righteous man, is described as one who walked with God "then he was no more, because God took him" (*Gen. 5:24b*). Christian and Jewish traditions interpret this verse as meaning Enoch was taken up alive into heaven without first dying, as God's response to his piety. Another example is found in the *Second Book of Kings 2:1-12*, where the Prophet Elijah is taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot, as witnessed by his disciple Elisha and his company of prophets. While some 'Bible-alone' Christians may question Mary's assumption, bodily assumptions in general can be scripturally verified.

While one cannot find positive historical proof of Mary's Assumption, Rev. James M. Keane, in his essay referenced earlier, offers the following *negative* evidence that points to Mary's Assumption:

1. *At no time in history has Christendom venerated a grave or tomb of the Blessed Virgin.*
2. *Until the 5th century of Christianity there was not even a legend concerning her place of burial.*
3. *There is absolutely no relic of Our Lady's body in existence; nor has any person or city ever claimed possession of such a relic.* (Rev. James M. Keane, O.S.M. *ibid*).

I especially find Rev. Keane's last point very compelling, given the historical devotion and veneration that was offered to the bodies of the Apostles. Great Churches and places of pilgrimage where built over where their mortal remains are found: Saints Peter and Paul in Rome, Saint Thomas in Chennai, India, St. Matthew in Salerno and St. James in Northern Spain.

Yet there is no place, nor any evidence that there has ever been a place, where the body of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, has been venerated, she whose status in the Church vastly eclipses that of any Apostle or Evangelist. One must conclude that this is so for only one reason: there is no body to venerate. This is so because she has been assumed, body and soul into heaven, as the Church has believed and taught for two millennia.



## The Good Shepherd

John 10:3b, 10b-11,14-16

The Good Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

I am the Good Shepherd.

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

I am the Good Shepherd;

I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father— and I lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep fold.

I must bring them also.

They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Thank you, Jesus.



LEFT: Picture of a bear outside my window MIDDLE: Empty church RIGHT: In the Covid time I have started making Jesus pizza. It is made from Kombucha and Flour the dough the Jesus part is it takes three days to rise

## Our Lady of the Mountains – Whistler BC

What are we doing during the Covid-19 pandemic? In truth, we are doing far more than we were doing before. Things were quite quiet here before but now we have a busy online ministry. Each day we have Mass, the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet all live-streamed.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays we have faith studies via Zoom.

Wednesdays we have Bible studies, also using Zoom.

During this time, I created a forty day retreat for men about the intimacy of God as a Father, which will end on Holy Trinity Sunday.

We are now looking into the Tilma Platform from Glass Canvas. It is an amazing platform that gives us the ability to reach out and use the technologies of the day to transmit the faith and receive online giving. Since we are in the mission of saving souls, we have to use the best tools

for this task.

We are also looking at Zoom for Alpha and catechism. More people are using our parish Formed account.

It is an exciting time. When the Covid-19 pandemic first started I was quite shocked at what happened in the closing of churches. I wondered why God would close the churches. At first I was mad and felt betrayed. It was heart wrenching to tell parishioners who wanted to come to Mass, "I am sorry you have to go home." The transformation happened when I thought about what I could change in this situation. Only my attitude. I cannot in good faith open the church if the Bishop has told me to close the Liturgy. So I realized that God must have extraordinary means of blessing people during this time when normal sacramental life is not available to them. I thought about the manna in the wilderness. The people of Israel did not

have their normal food so God provided for them in the wilderness. I have heard stories from people of extraordinary Spiritual Communion. I have heard many people talk about how they have used this time as a paid retreat. They have examined their lives and wondered how they got so far from God and now they are back. The purpose of the Catholic Faith is salvation and I know there are many who are sad they cannot come to Mass but the means of your salvation and the grace available for your perfection are there. You can spend your life being mad at what you do not have and cannot change, or you can profit from the time you have been given to examine your life, to learn what is most important and valuable. The choice is ours to become saints and profit from this time.

Fr. Andrew L'Heureux

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## Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese

Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese gathers to celebrate with His Excellency Bishop Joseph Nguyen two years since receiving his Charter, and charts a course of revitalization for the club by inducting new members and installing a new executive...

First two years in the life of a fledgling Serra Club is a long time. To recognize this anniversary, His Excellency Bishop Joseph was gracious enough to invite all of us to celebrate with him this event which took place at the Sacred Heart Cathedral and the Parish Hall on December 7, 2019. The Celebration was very successful, and we were able to interact and enjoy the presence of His Excellency in a small gath-

ering for quite a few hours. During the Celebration, His Excellency took the opportunity to review his vision for vocations and the status of our plan for building the Culture of Vocation in our Diocese. He emphasized that the important components of this plan are:

- The Diocese needs Serra Kamloops and each member of Serra to help realize our goals for vocations development.
- The Serra executive must be professional and committed to working toward these goals.
- All members must be involved in making the local Club strong and vibrant. We all listened attentively, and when it

came to time sign up for committee work, 80% of the members present expressed their commitment. We would like to express our sincere thanks to His Excellency Bishop Joseph for inviting the whole Club to celebrate our anniversary, and for his unwavering and strong support. Serra will not let you down!

"Always forward, Never Back!"  
Mary, Mother of Vocations, Pray for Us!



# Sacred Heart Cathedral – Kamloops BC

## How Sacred Heart Cathedral is Coping with the Covid-19 Lockdown

Who would have thought we would see the day when the Church would be relying on social media to get the message of the gospel out? The church mission remains unchanged, but its methods of connection had to be adapted as quickly as possible, and the Coronavirus crisis has in some respects been an opportunity to explore new ways of reconnecting. One of which involves delivering 11 am Sunday Mass online. Certainly, virtual reality cannot fully facilitate the essential and tangible interactions that occur within the Mass; nevertheless, technology makes it possible for the Mass from the local parish to come to households and families. Spiritual Communion prayers have been sent out and included in Sunday Bulletins and although some parishioners are struggling with the situation, they are encouraged to remember our brothers and sisters who have been deprived of the Sacraments and who live this reality all of the time. We understand that many people have never missed Sunday Mass in their lives so the temporary end of public Masses due to the lockdown has been traumatic for them, but they are trying to adapt. Many of the programs at the church, such as ladies' lunches and Pancake Breakfast, have also been halted due to the pandemic. When the lockdown happened, we had to relearn a whole new way of connecting with people, and it has been a big learning curve with lots of changes.

Despite no public Masses, the Cathedral Church is open daily from 9am – 7pm for people to come in and pray, with strict adherence to social distancing. We have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays 9 am - 9 pm and simultaneously we have confessions from 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm. We also have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm with confessions from 7-8 pm. Confessions may be arranged by appointment as well.

The Franciscan Sisters, as well as several volunteers, are regularly phoning people for a chat to make sure they are ok. Many of the Seniors are especially feeling isolated so we attempt to make sure that they are contacted by someone from time to time. It is important to have a vigorous pastoral strategy at this time: not just the clergy, but all the parishioners, engaged in actively phoning the vulnerable members of the parish and others, to keep in touch and to offer practical help if need be – or contacting in other ways such as driving



The Franciscan Sisters keep in touch with members via phone and drive-bys

by waving and honking the horn.

If anyone who is isolated needs pastoral support, please contact us at the Parish office at 250-372-2581 or [office@sacred-heartkamloops.org](mailto:office@sacred-heartkamloops.org).

Volunteers are sewing masks to give to the emergency response staff and front-line workers. They are not meant to replace N95 masks traditionally used for infection control, however, in the event of mask shortages they can help prevent the spread of droplets.

Regular emails are sent out to parishioners giving updates, prayers, Sunday Bulletins, videos from Fr. Derrick and links to Faith enhancing or educational resources. Any parishioner wishing to be included in this email is encouraged to contact the parish email address [office@sacredheartkamloops.org](mailto:office@sacredheartkamloops.org)

Volunteers have been making sandwiches and baking for the Mustard Seed to hand out to the homeless and poor of the city who are greatly impacted by the lockdown.

COVID-19 may have a lasting impact on our spiritual growth. There are new opportunities for people to think about how they practice their faith, such as reaching out to their fellow parishioners as well as the community at large, spending more time in private prayer and studying the faith are steps toward a more vibrant and living faith life to continue after the Churches are reopened.

*Fr. Derrick Cameron*



Fr. Derrick has been creating videos for parishioners.

## Diocesan Financial Office: Welcome Deacon Paul Murphy!

The Diocesan Financial Office is undergoing change; Deacon Paul will be assisting the Diocese for the next 18 months as interim or acting financial officer; in this role he has three specific accountabilities:

- To “catch up” on financial activities that have transpired since the passing of Gary Cooper
- To sort through the various day to day activities of the Finance Office and develop a proactive plan and approach.
- To set the various duties in a manner to attract a full time Financial Officer for the Diocese.

The Diocese continues to search for a candidate to work in the Accounting Office at the Chancery. The person who fills this role will report to Deacon Paul. If anyone knows of an individual who may wish to learn more about this important role, or if you have anything that you feel Deacon Paul can assist you with please call him at the Chancery Office or email him at [deaconpaul@rcdk.org](mailto:deaconpaul@rcdk.org).

# St. Ann's Academy Childcare Activities



**“Thus says the Lord: I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; The former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating.” ~ Isaiah 65: 17-21**

We are so grateful for the opportunity to help parents who provide essential services to our community. We are so very blessed to spend our days caring for these precious little souls.

Balancing the extra protocols and procedures for health and safety while continuing to provide a loving, safe, fun, comfortable, and educational environment has been an amazing journey.

While we had to say “see you again soon” to many of our families, our relationships continue to find ways to grow as they lift us in prayer and love with hugs and letters sent in the mail and pictures, videos, and messages through email. Thank you!

We have turned into a one room schoolhouse and are certainly not surprised but are blown away daily by the love and passion of St Ann’s Academy’s teachers for their vocations and students shown through the lessons and zoom meetings they provide. We are so blessed to share in this!

The most common question asked is, “How do you physically distance in a childcare setting?” The answer is trust and communication. We trust in our loving Father knowing He has gone before us and that He holds us in His loving Hands. We communicate all things to Him in collaboration with Him and with one another in His plan for all of Creation. From this flows everything we need and more than we need.

You are all in our prayers and we look forward to the time when we can all be present together, face to face.



# St. John the Baptist – Lillooet BC

It goes without saying that most practicing Catholics in our diocese continue to fast from the Eucharist due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid - 19 pandemic.

However, here at St. John the Baptist parish and missions, life goes on and I continue to do my duties as an Oblate missionary priest.

Since the public celebration of the Mass and funerals were suspended, I have celebrated two funerals in the First Nation communities of Pavillion and Fountain Lake.

On March 24th, 2020 Grand Chief Desmond Peters was laid to rest. A man well respected in his community and among First Nations people. We followed the government's protocol to keep a safe distance from the people attending the ceremony. It was a challenge because First Nation people have strong family bonds and funerals are community celebrations.

On April 22nd, I celebrated another funeral for the repose of the soul of Rita Saul, a member of the community of Fountain Lake. In both cases I celebrated a Mass in Lillooet at 9:00 a.m. and then I celebrated a service, outside of the Mass, at 11:00 a.m. in their respective communities. Someone took a picture of this burial at the cemetery.

About fifty percent of our parishioners at St. John the Baptist receive communion every Saturday evening or Sunday morning. I go to visit three of our faithful ones at Bridge River, Mary, Peter and Linda Peters. We pray outside their home and give thanks to God for all the blessings and the opportunity to receive Him regularly.

Then I go to visit Anne Plaxton, Lloyd and Cecil Lavigne, Lurdes Torrao and Larry Casper from Setton Portage who now lives at the Sumac Suites. Other parishioners prefer to come to the church to pray and receive communion such as Halyna and her two children, Maria and Ignat. Debbie and Cecil from Fountain, Freda Terry from Bridge River, Melody Medrano,

Zharah Medrano, Ivy Medrano and Ronald Paracuelles.

The other half of our parishioners prefer to abstain from receiving communion at this time. They prefer to be cautious and I respect their decision.

We continue to have Fridays Adoration for half an hour and those who have keys to the parish are encouraged to visit our Lord whenever they want to spend time with Him. Confessions are available at all times.

Also, we have taken advantage of the opportunity, that there is no traffic at the church hall at this time, to replace the ramp which was in very poor condition. There was a risk of someone being injured. We replaced the entire structure with pressured treated wood and composite boards that will last at least three generations, according to our brother in Christ, Paul Beland.

One of our parishioners, Gerhart Wilkie said, "It is good to do things together, we get to know each other more."

Yes, the pandemic has deprived us of our regular meetings and daily Eucharistic celebrations but it has also provided, us, once again, with the opportunity to work together and spend time with each other even if it a distance.

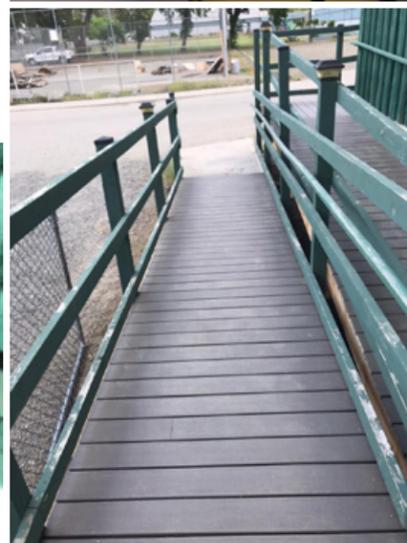
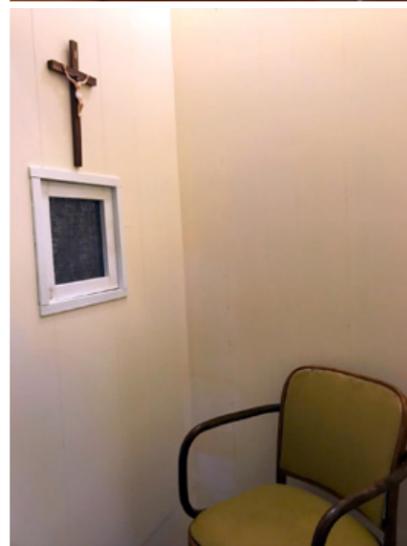
Besides from rebuilding the ramp to the church hall, we also cut a couple of trees which branches were almost touching the town's cables, and, we pruned a willow tree that hanged over the sidewalk.

Lastly, a proper place for confessions has been prepared, a booth for the priest and a booth for the person coming to confession. Pictures have also been provided.

Since we are a small parish with limited financial resources we rely on our few men to do the work, including the priest.

I have included a few pictures of the activities we have been doing during this pandemic. God bless us all.

*Fr. Peter Altamirano, OMI*



## Parishes of North Thompson

- St. George's Parish** – Barriere
- St. James' Parish** – Clearwater
- Our Lady of Snow Parish** – Blue River
- Good Shepherd Parish** – Valemout

Greetings from all the parishes of the North Thompson. We've been blessed with good health and peace. We are thankful for all the blessings even in the midst of this pandemic.

The Masses are live streamed every Sunday at 10.30 am on Facebook. The Sunday Masses have been broadcast on the local tv channel in Valemout which is Valemout community tv.

YouTube videos and music were made for the spiritual nourishment and passed on to the faithful.

I've been reaching out to parishioners by phone to stay connected. By God's grace they all are well. I would like to thank all the parishioners for their understanding, patience and prayers.

*Fr. Ajin George*



## Happy 50th Birthday Fr. Derrick!

On April 25th the parishioners of Sacred Heart Cathedral surprised Father Derrick with a special birthday parade!

# St. James Parish – Vernon

At a most difficult time in my life many years ago I (Marvin Lentz) found St. James Church doors open for prayer and was greatly blessed and reassured of the peace and presence of Christ.

So, with this in mind and having returned to the Okanagan, Father Peter showed me the project he had in mind to beautify the church.

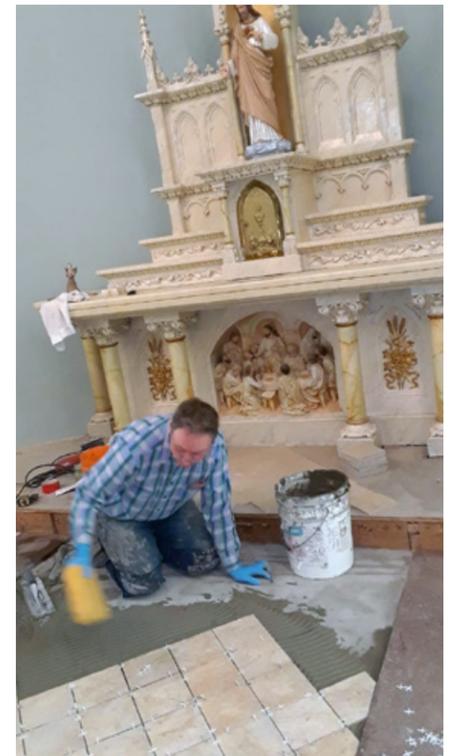
In the Fall of 2019 I began the construction of Christal's Nature Retreat about 30 minutes north east of Vernon. When I looked over the sanctuary I realized that I had both tile and granite at the Nature Retreat that would suit the sanctuary most elegantly. So, without hesitation I agreed to orchestrate the sanctuary beautification at no cost to the Parish purse.

In my reading of God's word is where I found His will expressed (1 Peter 4:11) Wisdom instructs me to use the gifts and treasures that were God given to the enhancement of the Church and for the glory of God. May all our lives get a fresh glimpse of God's love and peace as we worship and pray together in His house.

My heart is passionate on developing Christal's Nature Retreat in memory of my Daughter Christal Ruth Lentz. This Retreat centre is located at 480 Albers Road on a 20 acre parcel of forested land with a creek flowing through it. In short, Christal's Nature Retreat is being developed to provide a place for anyone to come for 1 week to 3 months. This is specially designed and suited for those whose lives have been interrupted with a traumatic life changing occurrence. A tranquil place to come to just stop their world in a Nature setting where they can rest, refresh, refocus and find healing for their Heart, Soul and Body.

As I explained to Father Peter my willingness to do the church project. I also would like to invite those whose hearts are inspired to assist in the development and completion of Christal's Nature Retreat.

*"A Son With a Servants Heart"  
Marvin Lentz*





## Our Lady of the Valley Parish – Coldstream BC

As this parish prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary this year from humble beginnings, the following is a brief update of the activities now ongoing in this remarkably busy parish which is currently being shepherded by Father Peter Nguyen for the past 3 years.

The parish built a new facility in the early 90's which has helped our Catholic community grow to the size it is today. The parish supports over 200 families with a strong emphasis on children's programs and has an active CWL, parish council, Knights of Columbus, RCIA program, annual confirmation classes for youth in addition to individual prayer groups and adoration participants.

The parish Finance committee has, with full support of our Parish Priest, kept a watchful eye over the operations and have strong individuals ensuring parishioners funds are well managed. Currently the Finance Committee has finalized, as a 25th anniversary, the installation of a new center stained glass window which should be completed within the next 12 to 15 months. The project took over 3 years of planning and financial support for this project from Parishioners was very evident towards the end of the planning process.

The parish is also finalizing a canopy to be constructed to the entrance of the church which will include replacement and or upgrade of the original doors to our main entrance. This work is expected to be completed within the next six months. Funding for this project was planned and comes out of general operating funds.

With the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions our Priest has arranged for weekly Sunday Masses to be streamed for parishioners in the area and has been very capably managed by a parishioner, Bernie Ramis, who is well versed in this technology and his efforts are well appreciated. Each week the numerous music groups of the St. James and OLOV Parish provide the normal music for all to enjoy. During May, for the month of Mary, Father has allowed the praying of the Rosary to be held in the church by 5 Knights prior to the Sunday morning Mass. The Virtual Mass allows our Father Peter to speak directly to parishioners and pray for their well-being and safety during this difficult time of isolation for not only our local parishioners but for people the world over who are experiencing the pain and suffering of this Corona Virus pandemic.

The Knights of Columbus have commenced a call out program

to their senior members to ensure they have ability to get prescriptions and groceries delivered if needed. This call out program has been well accepted by our over 50 senior members and the council of the 111 men have been very active in many areas of the parish to ensure the needy in our area are being identified and assisted where possible. Over the past year Our Knights of Columbus Council has provided assistance of over \$20,000 to the Schubert Centre, The Vernon Live Well Clinic, Vernon Dental Access Centre, Family Resource Centre, Vernon Special Olympics, Faith Mission Bible Camp and Vernon Shriners for youth hospital transportation. In addition, yearly the Knights provide up to \$3,000 in Scholarships to local youth graduating from High School and going on to College or University.

The Parish has a well-established RCIA program which is capably overseen and managed by a new family parishioner Mark Langer, who also provides music with a group on occasion for the Church's regular Masses.

The Parish Finance Committee and parish council recognized a need by the local Upper Room Mission to feed the homeless and a donation was made as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic indicated a strong need in this area.

The church parishioners work well together and are looking forward to a future well established in Catholic principles and growing in this area.

*On behalf of Fr. Peter Nguyen*

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