



Picture of St. James Parish in Vernon.  
Submitted by Fr. Peter Nguyen

# 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.

### 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

c/o 635A Tranquille Rd.  
Kamloops, BC, V2B 3H5  
Tel. 250-376-3351  
Fax 250-376-3363  
• info@rcdk.org •

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# Gratitude of the Heart

“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.” Philippians 1:3-5

The message of this bible passage was the refrain our hearts and minds when we learned that we were to go back to our homeland for good – it is with mixed feelings of both sadness and joy. We feel sad because we are going to leave you for good, but we feel joyful because God has called and entrusted us with a new beginning to carry on his mission to other places.

Our hearts have been full of gratitude since the 1st day that you have welcomed our first missionary sisters in your hearts in the Diocese of Kamloops through the kind invitation of Bishop David Monroe and Gertrude Sherlock who were God’s instruments that brought our congregation here for twelve years until this present moment. Because of the prayers, love, support, collaboration, teamwork, and financial help of the people of God in the Diocese of Kamloops, we strived to spread and echo the love and knowledge of God to all our brothers and sisters. By the help and guidance of Blessed Mother Mary and the Holy Spirit, we were able to reach out to the families, the First Nations, the elderly, the sick and the dying, the poor and the needy, the lost, the least and the last of our community.

“I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.” Psalm 9:1

We would like to thank Bishop Joseph Nguyen, who continued to become our bishop protector and all the priests that we have worked with and met. To the First Nation people in the different Indian Bands that we have visited, we thank and honour the Elderly and their communities in sharing their sacred stories to us that enrich and deepened our Franciscan Spirituality. To Royal Inland Hospital, the different Care Home Facilities, the shut-ins who opened their door for us to visit, journey and give Holy Communion to the sick and the elderly, thank you. To the different Independent Catholic schools, to their faculty, staff and students, thank you

for your willing open heart and spirit to hear the Good News. To all families, Adult and Young volunteers, the catechists, with whom we have journeyed in the Parish Faith Formation for Children, Summer Vacation Bible School, Intergenerational and different Diocesan/Parish Events, thank you very much for your untiring volunteerism, help and support to establishes the Reign of God in Kamloops Diocese. To the Third Secular Franciscan Order (OSF), thank you for your great trust to us as your Spiritual Animator. For those whom we forgot to mention - your name, organization, or institution, rejoice and be glad because your great reward is waiting for you in heaven.

Our prayers for all you: “...that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” May the God of all unite us, and we pray that for us all be well, till we meet again: FAREWELL! Peace and all good!

By: Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (SFIC)



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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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# Farewell to Our Sisters

Sr. Tarcela Taa, Sr. Ana Dorinda Repolda, Sr. Maria Concepcion Daran, Sr. Maria Luisa Simon, Sr. Analisa Baracena, and Sr. Ernilyn Aquino, are the sisters who served the diocese. It is the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Mother of God. (SFIC). They first came to Kamloops in 2008.)

The Franciscan sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Mother of God have been a dynamic force in our city for 12 years. What did they do? The list is long and varied and changed as some of the sisters had to leave, or due to changes in their contract from the diocese to the Cathedral.

The sisters made many friendships and were a healing and compassionate influence and energy with the First Nations people. They have travelled to many reserves and through understanding of the importance of elders, their gentle presence has been welcomed into the communities. First Sunday Monthly Mass continues at St. Joseph’s due to the sisters’ efforts. Sister Maria is fondly remembered for her respect for and forthrightness with our Indigenous people.

They were extremely active with the Faith Formation for Children programs in the city parishes and coordinated and taught the children with great care and fidelity to the faith. They prepared many children for the sacraments, not only for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, but also worked with families to prepare for baptism.

They set up and coordinated a team to do hospital and care home visits, as well as visiting the shut-ins. Their visits were meaningful and touching for the many people to whom they made regular visits. They never failed to cheer up the sick, the lonely, the troubled.

They were familiar with many of our poor and were a positive influence on them.

They started up and coordinated the hugely successful Vacation Bible Schools and Sports Camps that were held annually since 2012. They helped in the parish office for a time to fill in during vacation or sick days.

They were instrumental in trying to bring the Good Shepherd program to the city of Kamloops. They offered religious education to parents as they waited for their children in Faith Formation classes.

They were a wonderful presence in the Catholic Schools and were always helpful in whatever manner or situation that was required.

They did all this, and more, in a quiet and unassuming manner, but they accomplished so much with a loving and peaceful approach. They have formed so many bonds of friendship, helped so many people get through tragedies, grief, and also joyful times. Anyone who had the pleasure of a conversation with them would be left with a sense of peace.

They were also very funny and could bring laughter and joy wherever they went. Those of us who were privileged to get to know them and count them as friends will never forget them and will always remember them with fondness and love. They will be greatly missed in ways that are too numerous to count.

Sister Analisa and Sister Ernilyn will be returning to the Philippines before the end of 2020 due to the pandemic and the possibility of having to leave earlier due to travel restrictions in the fall.

So, we would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you. Thank you for your presence, your hard work for the people of God, your spirit of love and joy, your humble witness to the service of our Lord and for just being who you are. We are certain that the love of God will move you forward in your simplicity, submission, and love, in your participation in the mission of Christ, in your passion to heed the cry of the poor and in care for our common home. The love of God will continue to empower you with a humble courage to a life of prophetic witness by the testimony of your lives that God is the Beginning and End of all love. As streams of living water, Love will flow on. We will miss you. Thank you.

Submitted on behalf of Sacred Heart Cathedral



## St. Ann's Church – Enderby, BC

### Affiliated with St. Joseph's in Armstrong

Months pass as COVID-19 continues to threaten our society and the world. Gatherings and meeting have been suspended according to diocesan guidelines. We are thankful that the church has returned to serving Mass in our community. With social distancing and respect for the regulations, families and friend once again gather to worship. We are blessed that COVID-19 has not impacted the people of our area and pray that this good fortune continues.

The business of the day has been conducted by phone or virtually. Recently an annual flooding problem in our parking

lots has been resolved. We are thankful to those who have addressed this issue by installing drain lines, pumps and catch basins. These dedicated parishioners were quite resourceful, resulting in materials and labor being kept to a reasonable cost. There is still some electrical work to be completed, hopefully soon. There was a water leak sounding, in the church, for some time, the source was found and corrected. We are blessed for the diligence of some of our parishioners.

Each year the Knights of Columbus run a food booth during the Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE). Renowned

Horse Blankets, smothered in sugar and cinnamon are the menu. Unfortunately, the IPE will not run this year in light of the pandemic. In preparation for the 2021 exhibition, the Knights are looking for a new food truck. If anyone knows of or has a food truck in good condition for sale, please contact the Knights of St. Joseph's or St. Ann's. Kindly spread the word, so that we can continue to enjoy the delicious Horse Blankets, they are yummy.

May God bless and keep us safe during this difficult time without hugs and handshakes. May hope be yours and may you embrace others through acts of charity, kindness and love.

*On behalf of Father Anthony (Tony) Ackerman.*



## Sacred Heart – Lumby, BC

Our parish had to stop public celebrations from the mid-march (4th Sunday of Lent) due to the pandemic. Then, since the beginning of the Holy Week, Fr Swann has been publishing his daily homily on social media to reach out to parishioners under the lockdown. But even after the reopening of public Mass, Fr Swann continues his preaching on social media. It has been already over four months now! Fr Swann is thankful to all parishioners and audiences who have encouraged him to continue this project.

Our parish reopened on June 6/7 weekend. Because not all parishioners could attend the Mass due to the pandemic, the parish started to live-stream Sunday and weekday Masses. Fr Swann installed lighting, audio, and video equipment for live streaming. Also, a large TV was set up at the parish hall for any overflow from the Sunday Mass. Parishioners can use individual chairs to watch the Sunday Mass which is live-streamed. To protect seniors, Saturday 5.30 pm Mass has been designated for seniors and the immunocompromised. Parishioners can also come after the Mass for Communion only, after watching the live-streamed Mass. Since it became difficult to use the small confessional, a new temporary confessional was set up in the parish hall where much more air and space are available.

As the parish reopened public celebrations, parishioners agreed to wear masks and to sanitize hands at entering the buildings and at receiving Communion. And all the pews are marked for sitting to keep a physical distance. Fr Swann is grateful to all parishioners who have been faithfully cooperating with these preventive measures.

Although there have been no face-to-face meetings at the parish, the Catholic Women's League members held online meetings during the pandemic. To help the parish finance, CWL members made pies and it was very successful. And CWL also opened an on-going garage sale in the hall. A small number of parishioners can enter the hall, browse items, and leave the money for selected items.

*Fr. Swann Kim*



## The Good Shepherd

We are preparing our return to the atrium this fall with excitement and anticipation for what God has planned for us. If you would like more information about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program, please contact Susan at [susankberdusco@gmail.com](mailto:susankberdusco@gmail.com).

"A plan has always existed in the mind of God, the aim to bring humankind to the full enjoyment of God. We usually call this plan "sacred history" or "the history of salvation".

*Sophia Cavalletti, developer of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd alongside Maria Montessori*



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

The reopening of the church for physical liturgical participation and worship has been a great relief and joy for many of the parishioners, although some of the parishioners still join the Mass via live stream. Due to the provincial gathering regulations, an additional Mass (5pm Saturday) has been introduced in the

parish to accommodate the social distancing regulations. Sunday and daily Masses have resumed, and parishioners attend while maintaining the required social distancing.

There have been a lot of visitors attending Masses at St. Jude's 100 Mile House, Holy Family Bridge Lake and St

Augustine, Canim Lake. Fr. Emmanuel and other designated parishioners have kept in contact with those who are unable to attend, especially the sick parishioners. Fr. Emmanuel has been visiting the sick, administering the sacrament of reconciliation and anointing of the sick. We are also blessed to have two families who have recently joined the parish.

We thank God for his continued blessings.



LEFT: Fr Emmanuel mowing the lawn at St Jude 100 Mile House MIDDLE: Some of the parishioners at Holy Family Bridge RIGHT: Fr Emmanuel at Holy Family Bridge Lake

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# The Bishop's Message



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Many of you have expressed your enjoyment of reading our recent edition of the Diocesan News, in which each parish has shared what had been happening and being done in their community during this challenging pandemic.

Because of the restrictions, which will continue to be in place to battle COVID-19, we have to adjust certain things as we go forward together. Directives have been sent to all the clergy in our diocese with the expectation that this gradual reopening will be supervised and will follow strictly with the guidance about numbers, social distancing, cleansing and removal of items which can carry infection.

With such restriction, it is impossible for us to have large gatherings at the

Cathedral or any other churches, so I have delegated pastors to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation this year. Depending upon the number of candidates and the restricted number of people permitted in the church, multiple celebrations may have to be scheduled. I am relying on the good pastoral judgment of pastors in dealing with these celebrations.

Our clergy and I are trying to do our best to be faithful and caring in this difficult time and trust that the presence of Christ always goes before us, behind us, around us and within us. We keep in touch with each other and all the parish communities in our diocese with midday prayer and fraternal meeting via Zoom every two weeks. I am very grateful for all the work being done by clergy and parishioners across our diocese. Through your prayer and efforts, the church is not closed: teaching is being offered, pastoral care is being given, communities are being served and hope maintained. I also pray that in this gradual reopening of our churches, we will be attentive to our great desire to continue the full exercise of our faith.

Thank you for your prayerful and thoughtful cooperation in this time of need and together we pray for an end to the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus as well as charitable endeavors to care for each other. Jesus calls us not only to join him in worship of our heavenly Father, but also in seeking to see him and to find him in others, especially in the

poor, the infirm, the weak, the sick, the dying and in each other. Certainly, we are urged to think about others and not just our own needs and desires.

I continue to entrust you to the intercession of our blessed Mother, and I look forward to seeing you and seeing Jesus in you as we journey forward together.

In Christ,

*+ Joseph P. Nguyen*

**✠ Joseph P. Nguyen**  
BISHOP OF KAMLOOPS



Bishop Joseph P. Nguyen at the Knights of Columbus Virtual Supreme Convention August 3-6.



## Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine, Cache Creek and Missions

### We are now open

On account of the Covid-19 Pandemic, places of Worship (churches) in the Catholic diocese of Kamloops were closed on the 15th of March, 2020, and were re-opened on the 30th of May 2020, with directives on how to proceed. For a safety take off, parishes are to ensure that proper

1. Sanitization,
2. Wearing of face mask (as one deems) – face masks are provided by the Communities,
3. Social and physical distancing
4. Hand washing (as and when due)

Consequently, in our three communities (Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine Cache Creek; St. Peter Apostle, Clinton; and St. Gerard's Ashcroft) re-organization of seating order for effective physical and social distancing, pre-contact tracing requirements as soon as one enters the Church building, no singing as hymn books are removed from the pews.

Even though what we have is partial reopening of our places of worship, there is a warning: All those attending Mass do so at their own risk. It is important for individuals and families to take responsibility for protecting themselves and others.

### St. Peter Apostle Church

Before the Covid-19 pandemic this Church takes in forty persons, now with social distancing, it takes in only seven worshippers. If more people come, the adjacent parish meeting hall is used. During this period, we had one funeral. A short funeral service was held at the cemetery before the entombment.

### Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine and Centre

Externally, the IHM has a new look. The roof of the buildings is replaced with new shingles. There is still the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday till 12:00 noon. The faithful look forward to these hours of adoration. Before the Covid-19, the Chapel could accommodate fifty persons, but now with physical and social distancing twelve persons can be seated. The seats are arranged in twos (for couples). The pavilion provides more sitting space with social distancing. On Sundays, large families who wish to seat together use the pavilion. This, of course, is possible now with good weather.

### St. Gerard's Parish Church

Before the Covid-19 pandemic seventy-five persons could be seated in this Church but now with physical and social distancing only ten persons are seated. On the first weekend of the reopening, two Masses were celebrated – Saturday and Sunday – to accommodate the attendees with social distancing. From the subsequent weekends, only one Mass at 9:00 am on Sundays, as very few people attended the Saturday liturgy. Hence, the Saturday evening Mass was eliminated. The remaining eight persons are fixed along the right and left aisles. This is possible because the Church's central aisles are wider. The Mass is accompanied with liturgical music by Mrs Theresa Takacs. We are grateful.

During this period, we had one funeral. To maintain proper physical and social distancing with the close relatives, the funeral rite was held at the cemetery.

The attendance at Mass has improved compared to when we reopened in June. One could notice a more relaxed disposition and less fear among the faithful than before. All are doing all they can to keep safe.

*Fr. Udoka Chris Nwosu*

## The Choir Thanks Our Sisters

Thanks be to God for the gift of our Franciscan Sisters who have gathered all walks of life to their choir groups to sing praises to the Lord. On many occasions, we have wondered in awe how a small group like ours can make such glorious sounds. Then with humility, we realize that it was we who have joined the celestial choir in liturgical worship of our Almighty God.

Lord, thank you for gifting us these companions for our journey towards you. They have been there from our greatest joys to our most heart-wrenching sorrows and all the times and space in between. They have made personal sacrifices for our well-being, have listened and consoled us with generous and loving hearts even during times

when their own hearts needed consoling. They have gathered not only a choir but a growing community. They have been your faithful servants.

We will miss them terribly, Lord, but we are comforted by the knowledge that at every Mass, we will be united to one another in the Mystical Body of Christ. As you call your Spouses to different missions, may we sing this song to them once again as we have sung before...

*"Peace my friend, may the love of God go with you.  
May the Father guide your footsteps.  
May the sunshine every day.  
Peace my friend, may the Spirit walk beside you.  
May his grace be warm within you.  
May you always find your way."*



Godspeed, darling Sisters Analisa and Ernilyn. Greetings to co-Sisters Tarcie, Maria, Anna Dorinda and Maria Luisa. We will be praying for your entire congregation. Please pray for us.

*1st Saturday Choir, Sacred Heart Cathedral  
1st Sunday Choir, St. Joseph's*

## Three New Vocations for Kamloops Diocese

Secular Franciscans of St. Pio of Pietrelcina fraternity rejoice in the Lord to announce the profession of Marie Feely OFS, Therese Goodie OFS, and Lyn Cuikimdit OFS in the Secular Franciscan Order on June 18, 2020. Our Lord blessed us with a beautiful sunny day!

The private outdoor Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Jerry Desmond, who questioned the candidates about their commitment before their profession, and prayed for divine grace.

Then each candidate read their profession promises separately before the Minister of the fraternity, Mary Fankhauser OFS, who accepted their profession and received them into St. Pio of Pietrelcina fraternity of

the Secular Franciscan Order.

Michelle Zwolak OFS provided lovely music for the hymns we all sang joyfully during the profession Mass.

We are especially grateful to our Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Sr. Analisa Baracena SFIC and Sr. Ernilyn Aquino SFIC, who were with us at the profession Mass, who also helped prepare the candidates for profession and conducted many formation classes during their candidacy. Jean Stenhouse OFS, Director of Formation, conducted most of the formation classes with our candidates, in collaboration with Mary Fankhauser OFS.



Maintaining social distance was a special challenge, but we succeeded for the entire celebration, thanks be to God!

*Submitted by Mary Fankhauser OFS*

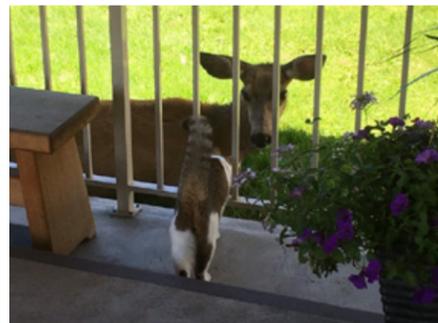
# Sacred Heart Parish – Williams Lake, BC

Since reopening in late May, life has attained a modicum of normality here in Williams Lake. Between Fr. Raphael and myself we are able to offer enough Masses on the weekend to ensure that those who wish to attend are able to do so. While certainly missing our music, and the ability to gather as one large community, it has nonetheless been a blessing to celebrate Mass with the community once again. In addition to the extra weekend Masses, we offer two Masses everyday throughout the week and this has created a nice routine within the parish. Outside of regular Masses, we were blessed to celebrate various sacraments over the last couple of months, including first communions, confirmations, weddings and baptisms. With great dedication Fr. Raphael has continued to serve

the local indigenous communities, routinely driving hundreds of kilometers every week to advance the cause of the Gospel. Because normalcy is close, but not yet, there has been an increase in “free” time here in the Cariboo, and with it I’m pleased to say I have moved my exercise routine over to the golf course. As I have mentioned to many throughout the years, I consider the noble sport of golf to not only be great exercise (if one is walking), but truly to be the holiest of the sports. Much grace and humility has been gained this summer through the rolling greens of the local course, and I’m grateful to God that through my regular exercise he has confirmed that I chose the right vocation. And, on that note, I really am grateful to God to be a priest, to serve in this diocese and to daily stand at

the altar, knowing with full confidence that the Lord has not abandoned us, but rather is close and continuing to draw all of us to His most Sacred Heart.

*Fr. Paul Simms*



Linus and his new friend



## Updates from the North Thompson Parishes

### Good Shepherd Parish – Valemount, BC

We are back to weekend Mass as well as adoration and Mass on Fridays. We have had a few meetings with the parish team about the renovation of the building, as we have it as the essential need. The Bishop has graciously accepted the proposal and we are happy for it, as it does good for the people of God. We are all excited and thankful about it and waiting for the final decision.

### Our Lady of the Snow – Blue River, BC

Our one and only parishioner Barb is doing well. She is so faithful and regularly comes to church every Sunday. Some of our brethren in Blue River have shown interest to make the Journey of faith with us. Most welcome to our brothers and sisters.

### St. James Parish – Clearwater, BC

We have Mass every Sunday at 11:30 am. Confessions at 10:30 am. There is also Mass on every first and third Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm. We have started a faith study program which we call “The Journey of Faith”. We do this every Sunday at 11:00 am. We are also doing a series of videos called “The Search” from [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org).

### St. George’s Parish – Barriere, BC

We have Mass on every Sunday at 3:00 pm. Confessions at 2:30 pm. We have also started the same faith study program as St. James’ Parish in Clearwater.

The parishioners of all the parishes from North Thompson send their Love and prayers for all.



# Children’s Choir Thanks SFIC Sisters

Over the past several years, the Sisters have organized a children’s choir to sing and share the word of God during Mass. During the fun practices, we pray together and our thoughts and feelings. Performing music with the Sisters at Mass is a great experience. It was wonderful to make new friends and such a special experience going to the Convent for some of our practices. While many performances took place during

Mass with the help of Mr. Peter Rennie on the piano, the Sisters also organized some Christmas performances at the Ponderosa Senior Care Home.

The children’s choir will miss the Sisters very much since choir practices were not only a way to practice songs for Mass but were also a time where the Sisters helped us grow our faith. We wish the Sisters good luck in the Philippines and we thank them for



all their love, kindness, and many contributions to our community.

*Written by Wesley, Vanessa & Christina Mah, children of SHC Parish, students of St. Ann’s Academy in grades 10, 8 & 6*

## St. Ann’s Academy Childcare Activities

As our summer comes to an end, we are so grateful to God for giving us beautiful weather and smoke free air. We have had so much fun!

We were so blessed to come together in our daily prayer with Sr Analisa and Sr Ernilyn as they prepared to return to the Philippines. We are so thankful for all they shared with us over the years; their presence, gifts, talents, and love in our childcare and we will miss them very much.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.” ~ James 1: 17-18



## Holy Family Parish – Kamloops, BC

As the months continue during these special circumstances I have increasing “Gratitude” in my heart for the many hands that keep us open to serve. In the words of Jesus “Well done, good and faithful stewards!”

As I reflect on our on-going life at Holy Family Parish in Kamloops, I am grateful to so many. The following are but are few examples:

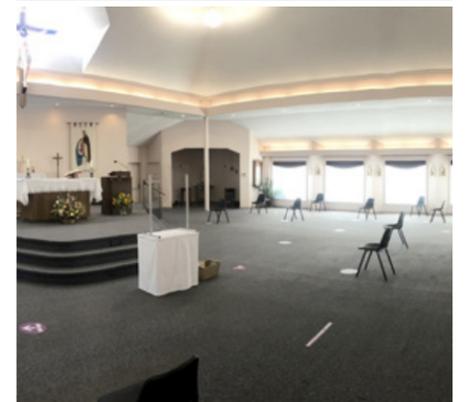
1. The on-going commitment involved in taping and the attendance at Sunday Mass each week.
2. The parish office coordinating the registry of people attending Weekend Masses.
3. Ushers providing the necessary safe environment ministry at each Weekend Mass along with other liturgical ministries and sacristy care.
4. The cleaning and sanitizing of our building following each use.
5. The on-going care of our parish ground and facilities
6. The assistance in my personal care ranging from rectory cleaning,

mending of clothes and the delicious food and meals that are being delivered on a regular basis.

7. Financial assistance through automatic deposits and Sunday Envelopes mailed or delivered personally.
8. Those who designed, built, installed, and sponsored our Memorial to those who have lost their lives at this time.
9. The patience, respect and cooperation with social distancing and other safe environment expectations.
10. The coordination and assistance preparing 1st Communion and Confirmation celebrations and for the efforts underway to provide Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation for our children.

As the summer comes to a close, we begin to anticipate a new pastoral year before us. In the midst of all our challenges, I remain grateful to so many.

*Fr. Fred Weisbeck*



# Catholic Women's League of Canada – Kamloops Diocesan Council August 2020



## Gift Idea!

Beautiful soft, luxurious Pashmina scarf! Available in cream, blue and now Black! The beautiful Madonna image with the words 'Wrapped in the arms of our Mother' enhances the beauty of the Pashmina. The blue and cream have a small stitched label allowing you to personalize your scarf with name or a special message. It is the perfect gift for any woman, for any occasion – Christmas, Birthdays, Mother's Day, thank you, I love you, thinking of you, praying for you, etc. These Pashmina scarves are a fundraiser to help cover the costs of hosting our 2022 National CWL Convention in Kelowna! **Our first order sold out** – our second order is on its way...don't miss out! SEE ATTACHED AD for further details and how to order. **Note: These are being sold across Canada!**

## Summer Speaker Series

Although we could not hold our National convention in Montreal this year technology has made it possible for you to see and listen to four (4) speakers scheduled to present at our convention. Please visit our CWL National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) and scroll down the home page to the 'In the News' section and you will find a link titled 'RE-WATCH THE SUMMER SERIES SPEAKERS WEBINARS'.

Be sure to view the 'Welcome Program Video' – and Fran Lucas's update on the future of the League. Get a glimpse

of what our volunteer working groups and Clark Marketing Agency have accomplished. Parish councils' will see information and material coming their way this fall!

## Action at Home

Members are encouraged to **let our voices be heard**. Be aware that during these times the people/organizations behind many social justice issues are pursuing their agendas with vigor, while governments are distracted by the coronavirus pandemic. Take this time to:

- Write letters to politicians – local, provincial, national – include opposition parties
- Utilize postcard campaigns – see CWL website - Pornography Hurts, Human Trafficking, etc.
- Sign petitions – stand up for human life and dignity from conception to natural death
- Be informed on many critical issues: Bill C7, Euthanasia laws, Delta Hospice Society – removal of funding as we stand against MAiD
- Review the 'action plans' on our CWL resolutions – under Education & Health, what our children are exposed to in schools regarding sex education; health issues surrounding and obtaining the use of fetuses; transgender therapy, etc.

## Staying Connected

- **Read and pass on** the Diocesan Executive communiqués sent to all parish councils – our members need to be informed and encouraged to stay active/involved in the League
- **Visit the websites** – National and Provincial for up to date news and action items
- **Subscribe** to our National CWL 'You Tube' Channel
- **Follow** the CWL 'Twitter' account
- **Check out** CWL face book pages – National, Provincial and Kamloops Diocesan
- **Share** your council's stories/pictures/activities by submitting to Diocesan Communications Chair – we need to hear from you and know others would love it too!

Submitted by T Mae Sinclair  
Diocesan CWL Communications Chair | [tmaesinclair@shaw.ca](mailto:tmaesinclair@shaw.ca)

## June 19, 2020 – Knights of Columbus Salmon Arm Council 7107.

We had our first get together in over 100 days. We kept our distance, sat in the shade and had great conversation. Eight people showed up including Father Dale. You know the song, "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree"?...well, we did!

Photo by Ken Nowicki



# Hello from Whistler, Mount Currie and Pemberton!

Covid-19 has brought with it some interesting times. We were able to move on with most of our ministries during the Covid time. We completed our First Communion and Confirmation classes. It definitely gave me some food for thought. For First Communion we were able to complete the preparation with two full day classes. For Confirmation we completed the class online via Zoom. Things seem to have picked back up here in Whistler and we have found it challenging to schedule the fifty people for each Mass. Either people sign up but they don't show up, or they show up without signing up because they are tourists. But nonetheless, so far it has all balanced out. Another unique problem we had was the size of the church in Pemberton. About thirty-five people would attend Mass there on Sundays pre Covid. With the Mount Currie reserve being on high alert because they did not want to risk Covid coming to the reserve, we were forced to look at another option. A blessing for us was that one of our members has a good relationship with the Pemberton Community Church and they have graciously lent their building to us. So now we have Mass in Whistler and Pemberton. We have been blessed with innovated parishioners and so we have developed unique ways to keep our Catholic customs. At first, I was concerned that hand sanitizer would take the place of Holy



LEFT: Fr. Andrew L'Heureux's canoe trip to Clearwater Azure lake  
RIGHT: The Baptism of Fr. Andrew L'Heureux's niece, Catalina

Water, with one parishioner saying as he came through the door, "Let us spray." But we started instead having one-person spray hand sanitizer from one bottle, and then a second person spray Holy Water from another bottle so people could continue to honour and draw grace from their Baptism as they entered the Church. We evolved quickly to an automatic dispenser for Holy Water which is housed in the baptismal font. We have one parishioner who has sewn a pile of masks and they are so well done that people stop in just to buy them. One person from the big city, after coming here for a Baptism, asked to have a dozen of them sent to himself. Speaking of Baptism, I was blessed to have baptized another

one of my nieces here a few weeks ago. Catalina is number sixteen of the grandchildren and was recently born to my youngest sister. I have found a great opportunity during this time to reach many people through our different online Masses and devotions and I hope to continue some of these ministries in the fall. For the last few Saturdays of the year we are doing hiking Masses. Our first one was at a place called Train Wreck. On a personal note, I was able to go on a nice paddling vacation to Clearwater and Azure Lakes which was a nice change. God bless you all and remember your universal call to holiness.

Fr. Andrew L'Heureux



Fr. Andrew L'Heureux leading outdoor mass at Train Wreck in Whistler, BC



## OCTOBER UPDATE FOR Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard retreat ministry for healing after abortion and miscarriage has been affected, like everything else, by the Covid-19 virus. Unfortunately, because it was during the Phase One "lock down" we had to cancel our May 2020 retreat for the first time since we began this ministry in our diocese in 2009. As hard as that was, we knew we needed to trust God and His timing for the healing of the retreatants. However, during the days we would have been in Cache Creek together the team met via Zoom each day for a scripture meditation and to pray together. Nevertheless, the ministry has continued through as the team has been and is still available:

**Phone/Text:** 250-267-5081  
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**Web:** [rachelvineyardkamloops.org](http://rachelvineyardkamloops.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/rvkamloops](https://www.facebook.com/rvkamloops) or Facebook messenger

We are hoping to hold our scheduled retreat in October but at the time I am writing this it is still too early to say. But be assured, we will hold retreats again in God's timing. If you or someone you know are in need or healing after abortion or miscarriage, whether it is your own or someone else's, confidential, safe help is available. Be not afraid, God has an abundance and love and mercy and healing available for His children.

Nancy Hadden

# 'Carmelite Corner'

August 29, 2020



### Mother Ann's News:

We are blessed to have the Carmel of St. Joseph Guild in our midst and we are grateful for the membership contributions which help us in our daily needs.

The sisters are usually busy with outdoor work but spring and early summer can be especially challenging, they cannot handle the fast growing grass. So we were happy when Gordon Pelletier gathered a crew together one Saturday morning to help trim, mow, cut down dead trees and dismantle a tin shed that buckled down under the heavy winter snow and cleared up the area. They got a lot done and the burning pile became 2 times larger. Thanks to all the workers.

After 11 years of faithful and loving service our guard dog Victor had to be put to 'sleep'. We will miss him. In the meantime the other two do a good job of letting us know when strangers are around.

We pray for those suffering due to the Covid pandemic, especially the elderly. We hear of many people asking, what will the 'new normal' be? Time will tell. But for sure we know what the Lord is calling all of us, including leaders of nations, to do, through the prophet Micah 6:8b. That is: "to do justice (the right thing) and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God"

### Special Events:

Due to the Covid restrictions the Sisters had to cancel the July 19<sup>th</sup> scheduled Mass and celebration for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. However, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Feast Day for the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Mary, Fr. Dale Normandeau was able to celebrate Mass at the monastery at 9:00 a.m., with some guild members and others present. What a blessing to attend Mass in their beautiful little chapel.

### Donations Appreciated:

During these uncertain times many things have been affected, including donations, we ask you to please keep the Sisters in mind when determining where your charitable dollars will go. The Sisters also appreciate non-perishable food items, especially during canning season. Sugar can always be used.

### Guild News:

Members of the guild will have to brainstorm some alternatives to their regular fundraisers; in particular, it is doubtful that St. Joseph's parish in Salmon Arm will be hosting their annual breakfast and silent auction fundraiser due to Covid restrictions.

However, the Sister's jams and jellies are always available to purchase. Consider purchasing some cases to sell at your parish. It makes an excellent gift and of course great for your own pantry! So delicious!

Membership time is right around the corner, watch for a Christmas newsletter from the Guild which will include information on how to renew your membership or become a new member! Should you require any information contact us through our email. We are set up to accept E-transfers for memberships. [carmelofstjosephsguild@gmail.com](mailto:carmelofstjosephsguild@gmail.com)

**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.*

Website [www.carmelspall.org](http://www.carmelspall.org) Phone: 1-250-546-8801  
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)*

### Greetings from the Carmelite Nuns

We really missed our friends and visitors that come to share their love for our Lady at our annual celebration in July. However, we invited Bishop Joseph Nguyen and our Brothers in Carmel Fr. Vijay Martin OCD and Fr. Jaison Tellis OCD and of course our chaplain Fr. Tony Ackerman to come for July 16th to celebrate a private Mass. They were most happy to pray with us and share together the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Before the Mass Bishop Joseph prayed over and blessed the construction site and the equipment. With the Bishop's blessing and support of our friends we trust that God will bring the much-needed garage and workshop to fruition for his greater glory.

Blessings in Christ, Mother Ann



# Make Your Defense: Mary Coredemptrix, Mediatrix of all Graces, Advocate

(All scripture quotes are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* translation)

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

Having covered the four Marian Dogmas in previous essays – Mary the Mother of God, her Perpetual Virginity, her Immaculate Conception and Assumption – this essay will explore the first of a series of Marian doctrines. (I reviewed the difference between a doctrine and a dogma in my previous essay). The doctrinal teaching relating Mary's status as Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate reminds us of her affiliation to Jesus Christ. Her affiliation is so profound, that she plays a role, albeit a subordinate one, in Christ's redemption of the world. This doctrine also reminds us that Mary acts as a mediator and as an advocate on our behalf before Christ her Son.

Strong popular support has been demonstrated in modern times to have the Church formally define this doctrine, thus making it the 5th Marian Dogma. As of the writing of this essay, however, this teaching remains a doctrine.

Concerning Mary's role as Coredemptrix, it must be said that humanity's salvation was accomplished by Jesus Christ as our sole Redeemer. However, it is also true that this work of redemption was accomplished through Mary's collaboration. Scripture reminds us that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law" (*Galatians* 4.4-5). This collaboration is first revealed in *Genesis* 3.15 where God reminds the serpent that "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and

hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel". This passage foretells Jesus Christ's divine work of redemption, and of his mother Mary's collaboration in his divine work.

In the Annunciation (*Luke* 1.26-38), the Archangel Gabriel invites Mary to be an active participant in salvation history by agreeing to be the Mother of the Redeemer. Her free consent makes her a unique participant in the work of redemption, a Coredemptrix. This participation is also affirmed in Simeon's prophecy when he reminds Mary that she will share intimately in Christ's sufferings when "a sword will pierce your own soul too" (*Luke* 2.35b). Her participation in her Son's redemptive mission and suffering was demonstrated as she kept vigil at the foot of his cross (*John* 19.25).

*"...this work of redemption was accomplished through Mary's collaboration."*

Mary's unique sharing in Jesus' role as Redeemer in no way diminishes her Son's redemptive mission. Pope St. John Paul II said as much in his 1985 address at the Marian Shrine at Guayaquil, Ecuador:

*Mary is the dawn of Redemption... Crucified spiritually with her crucified son (cf. Gal. 2:20), she contemplated with heroic love the death of her God, she 'lovingly consented to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth' (Lumen Gentium, 58)...Having suffered for the Church, Mary deserved to become the Mother of all the disciples of her Son, the Mother of their unity....In fact, Mary's role as Coredemptrix did not cease with the glorification of her Son".*

Like Mary's role as Coredemptrix, she exercises position as Mediatrix in a subordinate way to her Son. After all, Christ is the sole mediator between God and human beings (*1 Timothy* 2.5). But it is also true that all Christians are called to mediate Christ to others through prayer, charity and evangelization. Mary is called Mediatrix of all Graces because she became the *God-bearer*, mediating Christ, the origin of all graces, to the world. Mary is called Mediatrix because, as the word implies, she finds herself "in the middle" between God and people.

Mary freely accepted the role of Mediatrix of all Graces at the Annunciation (*Luke* 1.26-38). She did this by agreeing to give birth to the incarnate God the Son and present him to the world as his God-bearer (*Theotokos*). Mary's mediation is also revealed at the Wedding feast in Cana (*John* 2.1-11). Reminding the servants, in her last recorded words in scriptures, to 'Do whatever he tells you' (*John* 2.5b), Mary medi-

*Cont. pg 14*

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## Making Your Defence cont'd

ates the first of seven signs executed by her Son in the Gospel of John. Again in the Gospel of John, when Jesus, from the cross, gives his mother to the Apostle John, he also gives her to the Church as the Mother of all Christians. Her continuing role will be to mediate the graces of Christ's Redemption to humankind.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit are *Advocates* of God the Father in his plan for human salvation; Jesus redeems us and the Holy Spirit Sanctifies us. Mary acts as Advocate by interceding on our behalf through her prayers to Christ Jesus her Son. The anonymous author of the following describes Mary's advocacy:

*We say that Mary is Advocate because she always intercedes for us by praying to Jesus Christ her Son on our behalf. Scripture manifests the Mother of Jesus' role in God's plan of salvation as Advocate for the needs of the human family. Mary was our Advocate at the Annunciation, when she agreed to participate, on our behalf, in God's plan of salvation for the human family (cf. Luke 1:26-38). Our Lady also manifested her advocacy at the wedding of Cana (cf. Jn. 2:1-11). She intercedes for a specific need of the people at the wedding, and as Advocate she succeeds in obtaining from her Son their needs (cf. Jn. 2:8-10). Referring to this*

*Scripture passage, Pope John Paul II says that Mary is the "spokeswoman of her Son's will," and "She knows...she can point out to her Son the needs of mankind, and in fact, she has the 'right' to do so" (cf. Redemptoris Mater, n. 21). At Pentecost, Mary intercedes "in prayer" as our Advocate for the coming of the Holy Spirit, our divine Advocate (cf. Acts 1:14). In John 19:26, Mary is given to us as Mother. As Mother of all Christians she again exercises her role as Advocate for God's people, a role that does not cease after her Assumption into heaven. Vatican II states: "By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home" (Lumen Gentium, n. 62.) (Unknown. A New Marian Dogma? Coredemptrix, Mediatrix of All graces, Advocate. Vox Populi Mariae Mediatrici, 1998).*

While Mary's role as Coredemptrix, Mediatrix of all Graces and Advocate are open to misunderstanding, and therefore misinterpretation, by both Catholics and non-Catholics alike, the remedy for this should be solid catechesis, not an embarrassed silence. Mary is not competing with her Son as Redeemer, Mediator and advocate. She is rather a promoter and participant in the work of her Son's work of salvation. That is at the heart of this Marian doctrine.

## Life in the Sacred Heart Parish Merritt Since the Opening of the Churches' Lockdown

(Saturday/Sunday, May 30/31 2020)

The lockdown of the Churches due to the COVID-19 pandemic which lasted for about three (3) months was lifted on a weekend – May 30/31 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic and its concomitants was the first of its kind since the existence of every living person, the opening of the Churches made many people to heave sigh of relief; as they can see a gleam of hope that eventually things will normalize.

Personally, I was grateful for the opening of the Churches because, celebrating alone, the Mass which is supposed to be a community worship was very difficult for me coupled with the worries and barrage of questions from the people of God about why the Church should be closed and when it will be opened. I also noticed the joy of many people on the day we came back as a worshipping community.

However, the joy of coming together as a worshipping community was somehow truncated by the fact that it is no longer in freedom as usual; it was met with many rules and regulations. Number one is that the entire worshipping community are no longer going to come together anymore. Even those who are willing to come together are afraid of each other, they cannot come closer to each other what more touching; greeting is nodding of heads, smiling and throwing greetings from afar, no getting together for coffee or tea for the sake of socialising after Mass. Seating arrangement in the Church changed and opening mouths to respond to the prayers became difficult and singing was banned for the people; not withstanding all the sanitising of the individuals, the priest and the Church.

All these rules, though necessary I think infused fear into people. Understandably, many have health issues, but they can go any other place except the Church. We tried to create a more conducive condition in the Church for everybody by celebrating three Masses during which we have very few people, still some have found no reason for coming back. We have left them into the hands of God by continuing to pray for them.

I would suggest that the Church should remove the absolute and online streaming; but if not, very soon people will begin to see it as an alternative to the real physical participation at Mass. It can be seen that even with the presence of the priest on Sunday morning in the confessional, many people



are beginning to regard reconciliation as irrelevant when they only see the priest online. Many equally do not know that participation through the television or online is not the Church. Participation in the worshipping community has to be physical for it to be authentic. Let us remember that people used to be sick or shut-in before and we did not create online Masses in order for them to participate. I should regard much of these fears to come back to church as lack of faith, and it is a fear infused by no other than the evil one. Let us remember that we are coming to the Church to worship God to whom belongs all power in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18), and he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world, including the COVID-19 pandemic (1 Jon. 4:4). The Church, at least, I know that in my parish we obey all the necessary rules put in place by the Canadian Government in order to ensure the safety of everybody. I am happy and I give thanks to the almighty God that since the opening of the Church no one has contracted the disease because he/she comes to the church. I strongly encourage those people of God who have not come back due to fear to shun their fears, and do what Jesus commands; "be not afraid" (Deut. 31:8). How long are we going hide?

Remain blessed, Fr. Vernantius Ononiwu



## Serra Club of Kamloops Diocese



Our very own Serra Club of the Kamloops Diocese is looking forward to sharing some very exciting new ideas within our Diocese. Please continue to pray for our Bishop, our priests, and our clergy, our families, and for vocations to the priesthood.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." ~ Matthew 9:35-38

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## St. John the Baptist – Lillooet, BC

We thank God for granting us the grace to resume the celebration of the Mass with our congregation. Once again, we can worship together, work together in the needs of the parish, and enjoy each other's company over a cup of coffee next door at A&W, our neighbour. We were thinking of installing an intercom to place our orders from the church right after Mass, but we decided not to do it because we did not want to set a bad example in the town.

During the summer, some parishioners left to visit their loved ones, some are still cautious about the virus and have preferred to stay at home but most of them have come back to the house of God. We have the ones who come to Mass daily and the ones who assist on Sundays. We were delighted to have a couple of young families with their children for about a month and a half.

We still follow the protocol set by our Diocese, no singing, no sign of peace among parishioners, safe distancing from one another, provision of hand sanitizers, etc., etc. At the beginning of the Mass the people are sprinkled with holy water with an aspergillum in a ceramic aspersorium made by one of our parishioners. We are a small community that has taken precautions to stay safe, avoiding large crowds and unnecessary activities. The Church hall is open for the senior citizens of Lillooet only twice a week. All other activities have been cancelled until further notice.

Entrance to the Native communities is not allowed. However, I do go to visit and give communion to some of the people upon their request. I usually go to the Bridge River community to see Mary Alexander and to the Fountain community to visit Debbie Mitchell when she is not able to come to Lillooet. I go the Lytton on the first Sunday of the month to celebrate

Mass with Ablett Valerie and Gordon.

This year we painted six windows around the church. Since we cannot afford to hire someone to do it for us, we ourselves provided the manpower or the womanpower. Also, the soffit and the fascia boards needed to be prepped and painted.

We had a garage sale on August 23rd. It served two purposes; the first one was to raise funds for our small parish and the second one, which was just as important as the first one, was to build community in our shared faith as Catholics. In other words, to do some bonding as a family.

Although this year we were fewer at any other time, everything went smooth. The people who donated things and the people of the town who know us seemed to have the desire to help us. Lurdes Torrao and Cecil Lavigne made apricot jam for sale. This year we only made less than a hundred jars. Again, Lurdes Torrao made 10 dozen of the delicious Portuguese buns, Lloyd and Cecil Lavigne made two pots of Chili while Halyna Smolyarchuck made a Ukrainian Chili with lots of vegetables. It is said that the Mexicans invented the dish Chili con carne, but it seems that the Ukrainians have perfected it.

It is always a joy to see the sense of community that our people have. Working together and worshipping together helps us to love each other as Jesus would want us to love each other. One last thing I want to mention is that a parishioner made an interesting comment about the confessional booth that has been prepped and painted. The person said, "It is so now so bright in here that I feel that my sins are being exposed before I even say anything." I thought it was so funny.

PS This summer we had a visitor, a deer, eating our geraniums.

Fr. Peter Altamirano



## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish – Kamloops, BC

### Church Life After Lockdown

At the moment it seems all we are discussing is life after the COVID-19 lockdowns. When will social distancing restriction be lifted? In what order? What businesses will be allowed to open? What will be the social, emotional, relational and economic repercussions of weeks of physical distancing?

It is a good discussion for the church to be having as well. What lessons have we learned during the lockdowns? What helpful new practices have we stumbled upon? Should we necessarily go back to the way things were done pre-COVID-19?

The challenges COVID-19 has presented to churches and other places of worship have been particularly significant. Not being able to provide spiritual support face to face in the local community. There are many documents that have been received from both the Government and the Church which need to be followed and decisions made on how to follow the guidelines for each

individual church. Our Church community has had its own challenges, but we have overcome them. We really thank all our volunteers; without them it would be impossible to Celebrate our masses.

### The Things That We Did After Lock Down

Finally, the day came when we were allowed to go back into our Churches. It brought a ray of hope to all our faithful. After lockdown, we had the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Our children and parents were very happy. We also renovated our sanctuary and it looks beautiful! The pandemic gave us the opportunity to be creative in a way to support our church community. Now, we don't want to stop being creative in our ways of showing our love for one another.

My friends, The COVID-19 pandemic is an awful event that no one would ever wish on the world. However, with every challenge there also comes opportunity.

And as hideous as COVID-19 is, there is also opportunity for us to rethink - and if need be re-invent - how to best live for Jesus and his kingdom.

So, what lessons have you learned during the lockdowns? What helpful new practices have you stumbled upon? Will you go back to the way things were done before COVID-19? Let's continue to think about this and continue doing the best that we can.



## St. Ann's Parish – Quesnel, BC

### Hope in the Time of Crisis

*"The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love." ~Urbi et Orbi, (Pope Francis, 53rd Message for World Day of Peace)*

St. Ann's Parish in Quesnel, like other parishes across the world, is dealing with what is called the "new normal". We continue to ask ourselves what will the future look like for us as a Catholic Church? How do we continue to carry the message of Jesus and be the disciples He has called each one of us to be?

The leadership team was excited when Father Vincent requested a meeting to discuss the opening of the church for Sunday masses. In compliance with the Bishop's directives for churches to re-

open on the Solemnity of Pentecost, on the weekend of May 31st, 2020, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the team of disciples rolled up their sleeves.

With only 50 people allowed in the church at a time, Mass looked and felt different. Parishioners needed to pre-register for each mass. A phoning committee was established, and a script developed.

Every second pew in the church was blocked off with tape; directional arrows and markings were placed on the floor. BC Center for Disease Control and BC Ministry of Health signage were strategically placed in and outside of the church. Bathrooms were put out of service.

The ministries were contacted and provided with the protocols and instructions for how the new normal would look at St. Ann's parish: registered parishioners are greeted at each of the Sunday masses not by the ushers but by a "Catholic Screener", who asks health and travel questions, instructs each parishioner to use the newly installed hand sanitization stations and to wear a mask which is optional (except for Father when distributing communion).

Once in the church, parishioners are escorted to their seats, which may not

be the pew they have sat in for the past number of years. We all know how difficult this is for many Catholics. I am sure the ushers were praying "Heavenly Father help".

Next step was to ensure we proceeded with Confirmation. With permission from our Bishop, Father Vincent officiated. Two special masses were held on June 21st at Noon and 5PM, with only the confirmands, their sponsors, families and ministers registered for these masses.

It was decided to postpone First Holy Communion to a later date so the communicants could better prepare for this special sacrament as well as in the hope of being together in celebration.





## St. John Vianney and Our Lady of Lourdes

### Life After the Pandemic

There is no question that these are unprecedented times for both the world and for our faith. The Covid pandemic has successfully ushered in a time of uncertainty and discomfort. For many, the emotions that come along with so much change vary greatly and change often, and include loneliness and isolation. Through it all, faith remains constant, and parishioners await the reopening of churches and a sense of normalcy.

With varying understandings of guidelines plus a range of comfort levels, it is easy to see why the return to Sunday mass is a different path for each individual person. For a few, there is an unbridled enthusiasm and a complete preparedness to return. For some, there is careful caution. For most, there is still an undercurrent of reservation. Each week sees a slight incline in numbers, but many with underlying health issues continue to worship from home instead. At Our Lady of Lourdes, attendance has also dropped, but each week sees faithful parishioners begin to return. It is a quiet and gentle approach – with room for all to feel safe.

Following the recommended guidelines, St John Vianney parish has tried to create a secure environment for all who are returning to Sunday mass. A maxi-

mum of 50 in attendance with a sign-up sheet each week has kept the numbers at a safe level. Pews have been taped off to ensure 6 ft distancing, masks are recommended, and volunteers sanitize after every mass. Printed materials are no longer handed out, and bulletins are sent via email. Parishioners are careful to be mindful of others.

Hope is rising, marked by upcoming baptisms and the scheduled Confirmation of three young parishioners which will be occurring soon at St John Vianney. It feels something like spring; an awakening of sorts.

As we navigate these new times, we remember to trust our faith and to lean on our church community for support. This too shall pass, and with the words of Psalm 16:8 in our hearts, we will make it through: "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

*Submitted by Brittany Cooper*

### Farewell Deacon Eddie

Sunday, August 23rd was a day of both celebration and sadness at St. John Vianney Parish. The 10:30 a.m. Mass was co-celebrated by Father Jaison Tellis and Monsignor Jerry Desmond, assisted at the altar by Deacon Eddie Lavoie.

Immediately after Mass a farewell celebration took place to pay tribute to Deacon Eddie who, with his wife Cheryl, is leaving Kamloops for Alberta to be near family.

Father Jaison and Monsignor Jerry expressed sincere thanks to Deacon Eddie for his years of dedicated service to the parish and the diocese. A gift presentation by the CWL and Knights of Columbus followed, along with a framed painted picture of Kamloops, a gift from the parish. A box filled with cards and letters from individual parishioners who wished to put into words their personal thanks and good wishes to him was also presented. Deacon Eddie then replied with a heartfelt and emotional speech.

Deacon Eddie's smiling face and excellent homilies will certainly be missed in the parish. May God bless him and Cheryl abundantly in this next chapter of their lives.

### A Celebration

On August 4th, one of our parishioners, Clare Ternier, turned 100 years old. Clare enjoyed a beautiful day, with her family and close friends arranging a special birthday drive-by parade along with other touching celebrations. It is a blessing to celebrate such a momentous birthday, and we, along with our congregation, wish Clare every happiness.

## 2020 Memorial – Knights of Columbus Council 9697 Holy Family Parish Kamloops BC

### "In Remembrance of all who have died during this time"

While we may not choose to remember many of the difficulties of 2020, we do choose to remember the lonely and tragic passing of many of our sisters and brothers, family members and friends of all faiths during this time.

In answer to a request by Father Fred Weisbeck, this memorial piece was designed by Marg Ouellette of Holy Family Parish. The beautiful BC cedar was graciously donated by Hermitage Forest

Products, and the memorial was skillfully and lovingly constructed by Sue Scallon also of Holy Family Parish.

The memorial depicts the solidarity and loving support of members of all communities world wide as we remember all who have died in the 2020 global pandemic.

The symbols from left to right are: Judaism – Islam – Christianity – Hinduism – Buddhism are present together in our world community to pray for and work toward peace and unity for all God's creation.

The memorial was dedicated and blessed on July 5th 2020 at Holy Family Parish

by Reverend Bishop Joseph Nguyen, Roman Catholic Diocese of Kamloops.



## St Joseph's – Salmon Arm, BC

Below are pictures of the Confirmation and First Communion that were held this summer. Due to Covid-19, these were done mostly separately due to limited number allowed to attend and allow parents and others to participate. Confirmation was celebrated by Fr. Dale with the permission of the Bishop.



## Good News from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine!

After many years of service (along with a number of leaks in wet weather) the original wood shake roof at the Shrine has been replaced with a new composite shingle roof which promises to both enhance and protect the Shrine for years to come.

The process began with the Diocesan Finance Committee review of 3 competitive bids from reputable roofing companies. The winning bid was received from Champion Roofing of Salmon Arm.

The re-roofing project began in earnest in early June but the path to completion was not an easy one. It seems our Lord decided that 2020 would be a great year for an abundance of rain right to the end of July. This meant many back and forth trips for Peter and his crew, looking for windows of opportunity between the clouds.

Final completion of the cupola and skylights in the chapel, as well as the shake roof on the Managers House, is expected by the end of September.

We wish to thank Peter and his crew for their dedication to this task and we thank Chris Weicker and Steve Holmes for their coordination of the volunteers who came over several weekends to do the necessary cleanup work. And of course, a special thanks to all the volunteers!

Last but not least we thank Fr. Udoka Nwosu and Joell Le Blanc of IHMS for providing meals, accommodation and Mass for the crews and volunteers for the duration of the project.

May God Bless all who have participated in this endeavor!

*Submitted by, Steve Silveira  
Lay member, Diocesan Finance Committee*





# Faith in Action

## Year End Report for Faith in Action Campaign 29: *Looking Back with Gratitude – Looking Forward with Hope*

Parish Name	# of Pledges	Campaign Assessment	Campaign Pledges	Needed to Make Assessment	Pledge % of Assessment	Total Cash Receipts	% Cash to Assessment	Cash Due to Make Pledges	Cash Over Assessment
1 Sacred Heart, Merritt	37	10,443	10,643.00	0.00	101.92%	10,443.00	100.00%	200.00	0.00
2 St. Michael's, Logan Lake	16	3,485	3,490.00	0.00	100.14%	3,490.00	100.14%	0.00	5.00
3 Sacred Heart Cathedral, Kamloops	183	51,429	72,042.00	0.00	140.08%	72,042.00	140.08%	0.00	20,613.00
4 O. L. P. H., Kamloops	189	40,227	54,235.00	0.00	134.82%	54,235.00	134.82%	0.00	14,008.00
5 Holy Family, Kamloops	120	25,594	46,225.00	0.00	180.61%	46,125.00	180.22%	100.00	20,531.00
6 St John Vianney, Kamloops	66	21,928	22,128.00	0.00	100.91%	22,128.00	100.91%	0.00	200.00
7 Our Lady of Lourdes, Heffley Creek	15	2,473	4,510.00	0.00	182.37%	4,510.00	182.37%	0.00	2,037.00
8 St. George's, Barriere	4	2,480	2,500.00	0.00	100.81%	2,500.00	100.81%	0.00	20.00
9 St. James, Clearwater	5	4,552	4,552.00	0.00	100.00%	4,552.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
11 G. S., Valemount / O. L. S., Blue River	7	3,915	3,915.00	0.00	100.00%	3,915.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
21 St. Francis of Assisi, Pemberton	10	1,428	2,317.00	0.00	162.25%	2,317.00	162.25%	0.00	889.00
22 Our Lady of the Mountains, Whistler	32	8,331	102,139.13	0.00	1226.01%	102,089.13	1225.41%	50.00	93,758.13
23 St John the Baptist, Lillooet	14	2,807	5,120.00	0.00	182.40%	5,120.00	182.40%	0.00	2,313.00
25 St Gerard's, Ashcroft	12	2,079	2,079.00	0.00	100.00%	2,079.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
26 Imm. Heart of Mary Shrine, Cache Creek	3	2,180	2,180.00	0.00	100.00%	2,180.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
27 St Peter's, Clinton	6	972	2,350.00	0.00	241.77%	2,350.00	241.77%	0.00	1,378.00
28 St Jude's, 100 Mile House/ Lac La Hache	40	10,241	10,504.00	0.00	102.57%	10,504.00	102.57%	0.00	263.00
31 Sacred Heart, Williams Lake	84	34,149	39,825.00	0.00	116.62%	39,825.00	116.62%	0.00	5,676.00
32 Chilcotin	2	686	686.00	0.00	100.00%	686.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
33 Shuswap	1	408	1,000.00	0.00	245.10%	1,000.00	245.10%	0.00	592.00
35 St. Ann's, Quesnel	66	26,822	27,240.00	0.00	101.56%	27,240.00	101.56%	0.00	418.00
41 St Joseph's, Salmon Arm	90	31,961	37,155.00	0.00	116.25%	37,155.00	116.25%	0.00	5,194.00
42 Sacred Heart, Lumby	23	5,955	15,520.00	0.00	260.62%	15,520.00	260.62%	0.00	9,565.00
43 St Joseph's, Armstrong	61	9,919	18,467.50	0.00	186.18%	18,467.50	186.18%	0.00	8,548.50
44 St Ann's, Enderby	27	6,625	9,876.50	0.00	149.08%	9,876.50	149.08%	0.00	3,251.50
45 St John's, Falkland	1	146	200.00	0.00	136.99%	200.00	136.99%	0.00	54.00
47 St. James, Vernon	166	43,042	66,085.00	0.00	153.54%	66,085.00	153.54%	0.00	23,043.00
48 Our Lady of Fatima, Sicamous	9	1,945	1,945.00	0.00	100.00%	1,945.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
49 Blessed Sacrament, Chase	11	6,070	6,070.00	0.00	100.00%	6,070.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
50 St. Benedict / St. Theresa	15	2,867	7,300.00	0.00	254.62%	7,200.00	251.13%	100.00	4,333.00
51 Our Lady of the Valley, Coldstream	92	26,535	56,480.00	0.00	212.85%	56,480.00	212.85%	0.00	29,945.00
52 Our Lady of the Lake, Blind Bay	35	8,306	8,306.00	0.00	100.00%	8,306.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
60 Roman Catholic Bishop of Kamloops		0	0.00	0.0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>647,085.13</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>161.77%</b>	<b>646,635.13</b>	<b>161.66%</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>246,635.13</b>

This year we are excited to share that Campaign 29 exceeded Campaign 28 both in terms of the total monies received and the amount returned to parishes. The total received for Campaign 28 was \$631,938.56 with \$231,938.56 returned to parishes. Campaign 29 received \$646,635.13 with \$246,635.13 returned to parishes. Thank you for your continued support for the needs of the Diocese and our local parishes.

Campaign 30 embraces the theme: *Looking Back with Gratitude - Looking Forward with Hope*. We have so much to be grateful for and so much to look forward to. Your generosity in this challenging time will be a continued blessing to many.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Fred Weisbeck  
Diocesan Coordinator

PM 40013998 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:  
The Diocesan News c/o 635A Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC, V2B 3H5