

June 2020

# The Lamp Lighter

The Anglican Parish of St. Mark, Qualicum Beach, BC

Season of Pentecost at the Anglican Parish of St Mark

## **The Eucharist and COVID-19**

Some Protocols for the Diocese of Islands and Inlets

*(from the Dean and Diocesan Administrator – The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker)*

In mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic required us to suspend gathering in person for worship. Our parishes have risen to this challenge creatively and faithfully, crafting services of the word, meditations, online bible studies and many other opportunities for spiritual nourishment. This sort of Sunday experience was normative just 40 years ago, when many parishes celebrated the Eucharist as infrequently as once a month.

But the Sunday worship of today's Anglicans is almost entirely Eucharistic. Not surprisingly the Church longs to gather again, and to restore our Eucharistic practice. In the meantime, while we remain tethered to the internet, some have wondered if there are other ways of offering the sacrament during this time of isolation. Several possibilities have been proposed, including everything from an intentional "Eucharistic fast" as a way of honouring the Eucharist, to a "virtual Eucharist" where people bring their own bread and wine to a Zoom gathering to be consecrated remotely by a priest online. Somewhere in the middle are two other options, one being an "agape meal," and the other, what is sometimes known as "spiritual communion." There are likely additional ideas and suggestions. I have been asked to set out some parameters for this conversation within our diocese of islands and inlets.

Let me say first that the conversation itself is welcome and important. Our theology, steeped in scripture, tradition and reason, is a living thing, and must constantly be tested and refined in the crucible of context. This said, our Eucharistic practice and theology are at the core of our identity as worshiping Anglicans. So important are they, that our Canadian church has agreed that any substantive changes to our "doctrine, discipline or worship" must be agreed to by the whole Anglican Church of Canada through its General Synod

## **Update from OHEART community - Homeless shelter update**

Assisi Shelter, located at St. Anne's Anglican Church, housed its last guests March 17, 2020, as per recommendation of medical health officer – not enough room to social distance. Staff completed their contracts March 31.

**March 17 to April 20:** BC Housing approved accommodation for four guests in local motels, two of whom were seniors.

**April 20 to June 30:** BC Housing made a lease agreement for 16 rooms with Travelodge. The \$80,000 BC Housing budget with OHEARTS allows for staffing, meals, laundry, etc. Sixteen guests are currently residing at Travelodge. OHEARTS has secured housing for an additional person at VIP and 3 at Sand Castle. Two OHEARTS outreach staff visit each guest at least daily, doing well-being checks and facilitating linking to services. Night time staff are available to meet with guests and to assist the hotel security and/or night desk staff as needed. Food service is purchased from Salvation Army Soup Kitchen weekdays and Orca Place, weekends. Delicious!

**Next Steps:** Preparing for post June 30: Guests are preparing personal "care plans" which include not only names of their principle service providers but also their own objectives. These objectives might include anything from getting ID to settling misunderstandings re EI and WCB; getting a durable tarp to getting

food safe certification; finding a job to preparing to pay back CERB funds; but always to find someplace to live, either individually or with friends. Discussions are underway with BC Housing and motel staff regarding possible extension of current lease arrangements and possibly a longer term lease in a hospitality facility. Advocating for and Implementing 24-hour, year-round shelter: Supported by a SPARC BC Community Activation Grant, OHEARTS is researching both the size and configuration of Oceanside's homeless community and also options for delivery of temporary and long term shelter. OHEARTS is also building the team and community commitment needed to move forward.

Prepared by Perry Perry, Treasurer of P-Q KAIROS and of OHEARTS PQ KAIROS representative to OTFH..with thanks to all

This document is edited for space, however, you may find the entire document by contacting the Treasurer Perry Perry through the P-Q Kairos site, or St Anne/St Edmund Anglican Church, Parksville.

### **The Hesham Refugee Sponsorship Group (HRSBG)**

The Hesham Refugee Sponsorship Group (HRSBG) is a group of community volunteers dedicated to bringing Hesham Alhbiyou, his wife Nour and their children Fatima and Mustafa to Oceanside. Three of the group are members of our congregation: John Smith, Jennifer and Terry Roberts

Hesham is from a village near Hama, Syria. After the area was overrun by ISIS, Hesham was arrested for smoking in public, labeled an infidel and thrown in prison, where he was tortured and threatened with death unless he paid a \$30,000 fine. His father paid the fine by selling the family farm, and Hesham was released.

Fearing being forced into ISIS military service, Hesham and his family escaped into Turkey where he is seeking Canadian Government permission to resettle in Oceanside. The Covid pandemic has delayed the immigration process. Turkey has threatened to return all Syrian refugees to a "safe zone" in

northern Syria. Neither Hesham or Nour can work legally in Turkey and the children cannot attend school.

HRSG must support the family financially here for one year. Thereafter the family will be on its own, but HRSG will continue to provide moral support and help. From our experience with the Al Faraj family, those who volunteer to help the family will develop a close and lasting personal relationship.

We need to raise \$40,000, of which we have raised \$26,000. The ban on gatherings due to the Covid pandemic has seriously impeded our fund raising plans. If you or your friends are willing to help in any way in preparation for the family's arrival we would be most grateful. Donations of \$50 or more are eligible for a tax refund. Make your check out to St. Mark's Anglican Church, write HRSG in the memo line and mail it to the church. The church will do the rest.

We keep a list of supporters to send updates to. Adding your name and email address and the names and email addresses of anyone else who is interested in our newsletter will keep you and your friends in the loop and let you know of upcoming fund raising events. John Smith; Email: [johngsmith@shaw.ca](mailto:johngsmith@shaw.ca). Terry and Jennifer Roberts; Email: [t3899@shaw.ca](mailto:t3899@shaw.ca)

### **Transforming Futures**

*What does it look like when God calls us to Transform our Future?*

*Creating and giving rise to owning our vision... is the challenge... a call from God to our faith community... each and everyone of us who calls St. Mark "HOME" is asked to participate. No idea is too small ... no idea too grand ...no one left behind... because this is US... and together we will hold each other up and declare that we are indeed TRANSFORMING OUR FUTURE... so we wrote in February at our Annual Vestry Meeting.*

Covid-19 has slowed us down, but as a people of God... we rise again with faith! Today we look to the future that begins with us remembering that God is with us every step of the way.

Our conversation must begin with a basic knowledge of our Church community. We would like you to consider the following questions:

- *What drew you to the parish of St. Mark?*
- *What made you stay?*
- *... and today (in these days of CoVid 19) we also ask what did you miss most?*

Do give that some thought... We cannot get together just yet but we can communicate via telephone... home packages....

Later this week, as we call you to "check-in", we would like to hear your response to these three questions... please be as open as you can and remember that we are in a time of "**Re-thinking... Re-setting and Renewing**" our ministries and determining together, "what God is calling us to do!"

### How to Contact the Parish

- 250-752-5414 Parish Office number
- 250-240-2418 Rector's Cell Number (Elizabeth)
- E-Mail address : [admin@stmarkqualicum.ca](mailto:admin@stmarkqualicum.ca)
- E-mail address: [enorthcott@bc.anglican.ca](mailto:enorthcott@bc.anglican.ca)

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