



Anglican Parish of Central Saanich
St. Mary's Church St. Stephen's Church

November 12, 2017

Dear Friends:

I have read with interest the report from the October 13th Transition Meeting, and watched the videos. I am aware the question of same-sex marriage was raised. Bishop Logan spoke to his hope that the next permanent incumbent would be a priest who can come in and minister to those who have different understandings of God, the Church and faith; someone who can embrace the diocesan vision of reconciliation and beyond; someone who can see that diversity is part of human nature and is a gift from God; but who can also see that unity in diversity is our aim, not uniformity in beliefs. My experience so far in this parish affirms absolutely the need for an incumbent who is able to be pastor to parishioners who hold opposing views.

We all know that this question is not going to go away. Some would prefer never to talk about it. Others are weary of the tensions that it can generate. Still others cannot understand what the problem is. Let me remind you that we are defined as Christians not by this sometimes troubling conversation, but by our baptism; we are sustained by our faith in Jesus Christ, and every one of us is nurtured at the same holy table.

Bishop Logan believes that another facilitated gathering is necessary to help the parish move forward into the years ahead. I think he is right; my perception so far is that before the parish can go out and advertise for an ordained person to join our ministry, more rather than less conversation and mutual understanding is needed.

To facilitate some of this conversation, you are invited to attend a gathering on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at St. Mary's. Please bring a bag lunch. The day will be

held in the context of a Eucharist beginning with the Word and ending with the sharing of bread and wine. This time together would help members to listen to one another. This would not be a legislative process and it would certainly not end up with the taking of a vote.

Please make every effort to attend this important time together. The outline for the day is printed below.

Peter

The Reverend Canon Peter J. Parker
Interim Priest-in-Charge

Parish of Central Saanich
December 9, 2017
St. Mary Saanichton

9:00 am Gather & Fellowship

9:30 am Introductions and Begin Eucharist

10:00 am Facilitated Conversation and Listening

NOON Lunch

12:30 pm Listening Continued

1:30 pm Eucharist Concluded

2:00 pm Go Home

Goals of the Day:

To provide a place and presence to allow conversation.

To allow each other to tell our story without comment.

To see we are all Sisters and Brother on a great journey.

To allow diverse views to be heard and accepted.

To recognize unity in diversity.

At the end of the day to see the gift of each other and commit to continuing the journey together.