



Saint Joseph's Parish

Box 1429 2994 Burrard Ave. Vanderhoof BC V0J 3A0

Easter Sunday Year A | April 9, 2023

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD.

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Office Hours:
Tues 1-4:30pm
Thurs& Fri 1-4:30 pm
Sacraments:
Holy Mass
Sat 5:00 pm
Sun. 9 am
Saikh'uz 12 noon
Daily Mass
Tues 6:30 pm
Wed – Fri 9Am
Reconciliation
 by appointment
Baptism
 Contact the Parish Office
Matrimony
 Contact the Parish Office

In today's world we equate mystery with a puzzle to be solved: follow the clues and the solution becomes obvious. But John's account of the first Easter morning reveals a more profound understanding of mystery. Mystery is an experience into which we enter. It may lead to an encounter with the transcendent God.

John's gospel for Easter morning is rich with emotion. Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the other disciples (probably the evangelist himself) each respond differently to the enigma of the empty tomb. When the two male disciples see the burial cloths, they turn around and run back home. While the unnamed disciple, who sees and believes, seems to solve the mystery of the empty tomb, he misses a critical component of the experience— meeting the resurrected Lord.

Mary Magdalene, however, is willing to sit with her confusion and grief. She remains in the dark, weeping and unknowing. She allows mystery to enfold her and thus she encounters the Risen Jesus. Empowered through her experience, she is the herald of the resurrection, announcing, "I have seen the Lord."

As we participate in this Easter Sunday Liturgy, we are full of gratitude for the mystery of the Eucharist wherein we encounter the Risen Christ. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia, alleluia!

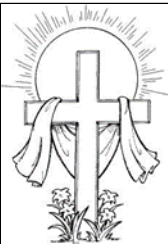
Louise McEwan St. Joseph's Sunday Missal pg. 322



Holy Trinity
Church
Mission



*"I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.
Psalm 138.18, 5-6*



PASTOR EASTER MESSAGE. 2023

Lent is incomplete until we experience Easter and the power of Christ crucified. For the 40 days of Lent we have been preparing ourselves through acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to renew our baptismal promises: Do you believe in God, do you believe in Jesus Christ, do you believe in the Holy Spirit? This renewal of our promises is a renewal of our commitment to bring the Good News to the whole world precisely because we believe that it is Good News for everyone. Our preparation is incomplete until we profess our faith in Christ resurrected.

God did not create the world, or Jesus Christ redeem the world, or the Holy Spirit live in the world where suffering, pain, loss would win. Rather our Lent finds its fulfillment with an Easter where the blind can see, the deaf hear, and the dead have new life given to them. The Good News is that Christ lives and so can we.

The 40 days of Lent are to bring to mind the 40 years that Israel wandered in the desert before entering the promised land, or the 40 days that Elijah fled from his enemies to reach Mount Horeb (Mountain of God), or the 40 days after his baptism when Jesus successfully overcame the temptations for comfort, wealth, and power offered by the devil if **only** Jesus would **not** acknowledge God as supreme. Each story can bring a new energy to our lives. We can wander 40 years and our dreams can be delayed for a while because we are promised that the new land we will arrive at is better than any we could imagine. We can flee 40 days from enemies wishing to harm us because we are fleeing into the arms of an all-protecting God. And we can be exposed to temptations (and maybe fall occasionally or more often) because in the end the 'seduction of the superficial' (phrase used by Pope Francis) will recede before the Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of our heavenly Father.

Over time, the time in the desert has come to be seen as a time of first love between God and Israel, a time of special election for the people of Israel. But scripture records otherwise. It was a time of danger with an uncertain future. It was a time of great difficulty when so many comforts were not available. It was a time of great temptation when Israel often murmured against God and wanted to return to slavery in Egypt. One can say that the Church today is in the desert. The privileges and station we once had in society are not available. The murmuring has increased both within and without the Church that Jesus is better served by the world than by the Church with its hard teachings. The image of the Church in the desert is an arguable position: it is exposed in an empty wasteland and it is criticized for being voiceless.

But precisely because every Lent culminates in an Easter, we trudge on, carry on, just like Israel, Elijah, and Jesus.

Our parish is actively proclaiming this Good News of the resurrection of Jesus, and we need your help. Many have been a part of bringing St. Joseph's to this moment, and it is our turn to carry the banner forward. We are to 'Go, make disciples, baptize and teach' (Mathew 28:18). By our transformed lives, we will transform the community we live in.

To engage in this activity of transforming our individual lives so that we can transform the community we live in, we have three principles:

First: we are 100% committed to evangelizing and bringing the Good News to bear on all the dark (and light) spots that the world finds itself in. Many answers have been supplied throughout history, but there has only ever been one answer : love God (vertical love) and love your neighbour as yourself (horizontal love). We are 100% committed to rooting all relationships in this foundation.

Second: we focus on developing leaders. The training program here is as follows: take the passion that the person has, help them to see how the presence of God makes it better, and encourage them to tell others about Jesus through their passion.

Third: we promote only one prayer, spirit-inspired prayer. Visibly this will take many forms that include Mass, Sacraments, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, retreats, meditations, walks in nature, Life in the Spirit seminars, watching soccer games... Invisibly this will take only ONE FORM: an intimate encounter with God through an open heart.

As Catholics we do not deny Lent. Life has discomforts and murmurings, and we acknowledge their reality. As Catholics we also do not deny Easter. Christ has completely conquered all discomforts and quieted all murmurings. Can you help us spread this Good News? Come and join us in making disciples who will in turn help us make more disciples. Happy Easter.

Fr. Pier Pandolfo

Pastor, St. Joseph's Catholic Church

GIFTS - Books/Audio Tapes: we have a large selection of books and audio tapes available in the foyer of the Church on faith, morality, spirituality, conversion stories, etc. Please feel free to take one as a gift from us for joining us in worship.

eTransfer Donations to St. Joseph: you can now donate to St. Joseph using eTransfer. Direct the donation to 'stjosephsvanderhoof@pgdiocese.ca' and remember to put in the comment section your name so that we can credit you.

DIOCESE ACTIVITIES : GIFT from the DIOCESE – subscription to FORMED: this catholic content online platform is available to everyone in our diocese. If you are already registered through St. Joseph's, then you have to do nothing but keep using the resource and say a prayer of thanks to the Diocese. If you are a new registrant, go to pgdiocese.bc.ca and on the home page you will find a scroll bar of announcements; find the one for FORMED and follow the instructions; use the postal code VOJ 3A0 when prompted. Call the Office (250-567-9151) if you need help.

PARISH ACTIVITIES- CWL Convention: May 12-14 hosted by Vanderhoof and Fraser Lake: the annual convention will be hosted by our Infant Jesus Council of Vanderhoof. Lots of hard work has happened to organize the event but we need your help. If you are woman, consider joining the CWL, an organization of women committed under the banner of Faith, Service, and Social Justice. Our parish also needs people to help setup, clean, serve meals, prepare soups, etc. I will be looking for volunteers to help makes all the tasks lighter.

PARISH ACTIVITIES- ALPHA in the Fall: our parish is committed to running the ALPHA program and our next program begins in September. ALPHA is a 10 week program of faith sharing that allows people to explore their belief or non-belief in Jesus within a non-judgmental atmosphere. Begin inviting people now. Consider hosting a group of your own friends – we will help.

PARISH ACTIVITIES : Sacramental Preparation has begun;

QUIET PARISH HEROS : donations of time and treasure towards our liturgy celebrations

QUIET PARISH HEROS : parishioners are fabricating book holders for our pews

QUIET PARISH HEROS : volunteers to programs operating in Saik'uz

QUIET PARISH HEROS : organizers and operators of our ALPHA event

Parish Prayer Requests		
Brenda Antoine,	Geri Mann,	Madison Scott,
Mackie Basil,	Della Morin,	Don Summerskill,
Cooper Cursley,	Eunice Nash,	Clark Todd,
Lisa Doucette,	Michael Nelson,	Mike Van Dusen,
Brent Gray,	Gerry Nickerson,	Mimi Work and for all
Ellen Haynes,	Ruby Irene Patrick,	who are in need of
Patrick Irving ,	Virginia Power,	God's healing grace.
Jennifer Lock,	Dorothy Ranck,	
Rose Marie MacDonald,	Ken Reid, Lillian Sam,	
	Ian Scott,	
	Madeline Scott,	

