

Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 2/3, 2020

Your Mass Intentions will be offered & prayed for at the private Masses of Father Steny & Father Cannio

MASS INTENTIONS

MON. 4 at 7:30am:	+Repose All Souls in Purgatory by Elizabeth Wong
9:00am:	Spec. Intention Winnifred Parkin by Dale family
TUES. 5 at 7:30am:	Spec. Intention St. Edmund Parishioners
9:00am:	Spec. Intention Raymond Kidder by Lynn McLeod
WED. 6 at 7:30am:	Spec. Intention Beth Lee by Barbara Stuart
9:00am:	+Repose Patricia Crane by Roger & Pat LaBreche
THURS. 7 at 7:30am:	+Repose Teresita Rotairo by Almazan family
9:00am:	Spec. Intention Dorothy Berry by Stella Berry
FRI. 8 at 7:30am:	+Repose Elba Ruiz Montoya by Noujeim family
9:00am:	+Repose Cristino Maglieri by Pasqualina Cusano
SAT. 9 at 9:00am:	+Repose Serafino & Lucia Battista by family
4:30pm:	+Repose Maria & Serafino Cusano by son Angelo & family
SUN. 10 at 8:00am:	+Repose Cristino Ficocelli by wife Janet
at 9:30am:	+Repose Raffaele Cusano by wife Rosa
at 11:00am:	+Repose Josefa & All Souls in Purgatory by Flory

Did God Abandoned Us?

Dear brothers and sisters, when disease strikes, quite often our first reaction is to ask: Why me? What did I do to God to deserve this? If God is truly good, how can He allow this? Afflicted with suffering, it is not unusual to be overwhelmed by a sense of meaninglessness, to feel guilty, to experience anger, to rebel.

What to do then? To whom should I turn?

Maybe we should rather ask: **Why NOT me? Why should we be spared from suffering? Why should we be exempt from suffering?** The Christian faith is the only one that believes in a God who suffered, in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus suffered for our sins and turned suffering into new life through His Resurrection.

At the same time, we should ask another question when we suffer, that is: What will I do with my suffering? Will I allow it to trigger in me resentment, guilt, anger, and a sense of powerlessness? Or will I rather find a way, through the power of the suffering God, to turn my suffering into love? Could I not allow Him to induce me to be more compassionate, more loving, and to accept the love and care others want to give me?

One of the most human reactions to a disease like Corona Virus that which persists despite of our prayers, asking God for healing that seem not to be heard can be a profound feeling of God's absence. We wonder why our prayers seem to fall on deaf ears. We do not understand why God remains silent while we are suffering.

Dear brothers and sisters, When Jesus was suffering on the cross, He Himself expressed such a feeling by repeating the words of Psalm 22: **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** In the suffering of His passion, Jesus cried to His Father. It is here we find in Jesus a reflection of our own powerlessness before suffering and our unmet need for relief.

It is part of God's mystery that we go through these times of pain when there seems to be no consolation, when we seek comfort and do not receive any. Saint John of the Cross, a 16th century great mystic, a Carmelite Saint, describes this experience as the **"dark night of the soul,"** a time when any sweetness coming from our sense of God's love and presence disappears for some time.

Although God does not cause or desire our suffering, He allows it. In these times when we feel alone and disturbed by corona virus, we can seek to find God's presence in the kindness of others, the skill and care of health professionals, and moments of grace when we feel a strength and love that go beyond our own strength. God is close to us, even when we do not see Him. It may be in these moments, more than in any others, that we live our faith as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Dear brothers and sisters, at the beginning of today's gospel it sounds like Jesus is suggesting that he is the shepherd who enters the gate, unlike the thieves and bandits who hop the fence. The sheep, he says, listen to and follow the voice of the shepherd but run from the voice of strangers. But then later in today's gospel Jesus says that he is the gate. So, he is the shepherd who enters the gate and he is also the gate the shepherd enters? And then he says that we can enter him as a gate to abundant life?

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus says that we might **"have life and have it abundantly."** What does that mean for us? Where is our life abundant? And in what ways is it less than abundant? Let us Keep this in mind, that abundance is not something we get. It is a way of living and being. The abundant life is not about quantity, wealth, success, approval, popularity, security, being number one, or any of the other things we often think it is. The abundant life is touching and living the divine life. It is a quality not a quantity. It is about meaning, integrity, purpose, creativity, relationship, and wholeness. The abundant life adds to the life of others and the world. It's life that leads to life, love that leads to love, joy that leads to joy, hope that leads to hope, kindness that leads to kindness, generosity that leads to generosity, beauty that leads to beauty, and gratitude that leads to gratitude. It does not add to the pain of the world but adds to and enhances life, our own as well as others'.

Who is the shepherd? The obvious answer is Jesus. That is certainly not a wrong answer. Because Jesus clearly said; "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). But my question is, is that the only answer? Could there be other shepherds? And if so, who might that be? What about Psalm 23 that we read a few minutes ago? That said that the Lord, God, is our shepherd. He revives, he leads, he protects, he feeds, he waters, he pastures. **What about us?** Could we do those things? Could we be the shepherds? Let us think about the shepherds, who have guided, nurtured, and protected our life? At the same time let us ask ourselves, when have we shepherded the life of another?

Dear brothers and sisters, then Jesus speaks about the thieves and bandits? Jesus is not warning us about having our things stolen but about having our life stolen. In what ways has our life been stolen? Who or what are the thieves and bandits in our life?

May Almighty God Bless you and your Family.

Father Steny

What is St. Edmund's doing to help us stay connected during the COVID-19?

We want to honor your connection to spiritual community as much as possible with the resources we have available. At this point in time we have the benefit of technology to remain socially connected while social distancing. In an effort to support you in your spiritual journey during this time, we will offer a variety of prayerful touchpoints through the days and weeks ahead. Join us as we connect with each other and our community. We will most actively be using our website <http://www.stedmundsparish.ca> along with updating and contacting you on emails and phone calls.

Am I allowed to go to the Church to pray?

St. Edmund's Church will be opened during the day for quiet prayer at the request. Unfortunately, participation in the liturgy in person is unavailable, however we encourage you to watch the Mass on TV and participate in prayer from home. Please exercise social distancing if you choose to pray at church. Limit contact with surfaces and maintain six to ten-foot distance from others (as hard as that is).

How can I stay connected to St. Edmund's during this time of social distancing?

We would love to utilize this time to connect with parishioners. If you would be interested in making phone calls or writing letters to parishioners, please contact the office at st.edmunds@shaw.ca.

Is confession still available?

Confession will still be offered. Call the office at 604 988 3211 for more details.

Contact the office if you need any kind of help. We are here to assist you.

Private Masses celebrated by Fr Steny and Fr Cannio at St. Edmunds are:

Weekday Masses are at 9.30am

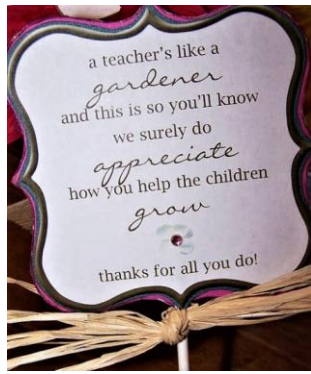
If any of you wants to come and pray personally in the Church, please give a call to the office and let us know so that we can open the Church for you.

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2020

Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day — their immense work and impact moves us beyond words, so we need to say how we feel. And with the abrupt end to the physical school year, our teachers have done even more to continue education with virtual classrooms and learning at home lessons. All to ensure every student has the tools they need to reach their full potential. So, let us all Pray, love and care for our teachers.

It is in these challenging times that we truly recognize and appreciate how St. Edmund's School teachers play such a pivotal role in our children's lives — inspiring a lifelong love of learning and discovery and making a difference in their well-being and long-term success and also helping them to grow in their faith.

While we often thank our teachers every day, it is during Teacher Appreciation Week when we like to pause and really show our love for the teachers in our lives. Dear Students, we encourage you to tell your teacher how much you Love, Like, Care and celebrate their achievements and **SALUTE** their commitment to you and to your families.



STA NEWS

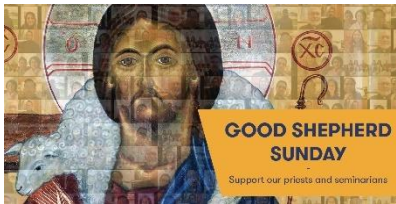
On Thursday, April 30 we were able to host our first weekly Mass from our Convent Chapel. We are thankful to Father Cannio for his cheerfulness and to Vice-Principal Horton and Mr. Galat who took care of all the technical details in order to facilitate the event.

Registration continues, this is our last weekend for on-line registration. Thereafter we will go the "old fashion" route and mail out paper forms to be completed.

You may have read in the paper today that Premier Horgan has stated "no return to school for most students until the fall". Our teachers will continue on with "virtual classroom" using the Google platform. They are becoming more creative every day with their use of this technology. Attendance is high and students are very engaged. Although not the way of the future it is certainly the way for right now.

Our current grade 10 and grade 11 students are selecting their courses for the next school year and our grade 12 students continue to work hard towards their graduation.

Considering the circumstances, we are all thankful to our administrators, teachers, students, parents, office staff and custodians who make this all happen, along with the support received by CISVA.



Dear parishioners,
Did you know...

- ...there are now 47 parishes offering online streaming of Mass?
- ...some priests are hearing drive-thru confessions and are leading Eucharistic Adoration in parish parking lots?
- ...priests continue to minister to the sick and the dying in hospitals?
- ...under their guidance, faith formation – including RCIA, PREP, youth events, young adult prayer groups and public talks – continues to be vibrant?

Today we will not be in our parishes, but still have the opportunity to show support for our future priests by visiting vocationsvancouver.ca/give. You can also drop off your envelope to parish office.

Your gift to the Second Collection for Vocations helps:

- promote a culture of vocations in the Archdiocese
- provide accompaniment to those discerning the priesthood and the consecrated life
- fund the formation and education of seminarians in training for the priesthood.

In brief, your gift will contribute to having more priests in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and we are grateful for your support.

Thanks to a generous individual donor, all donations until May 10 will be matched dollar for dollar up to our goal amount. This is an incredible opportunity to provide a large boost to the work of Vocations in our Archdiocese.

Please visit vocationsvancouver.ca/give to participate. You can also drop off your envelope to parish office. Thank you for continuing to support the growth of vocations in our Archdiocese.

PLEASE NOTE NO MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
PARISH OFFICE SERVICES ONLY AVAILABLE BY EMAIL OR PHONE

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays – 9am – 1pm & Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 9am – 5pm

ALL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO MEDITATORS

Finally, we are getting organized in this new routine, dear Meditators!!! Just in case we have this popular section one more time "Housekeeping": I will be online about 20/25 minutes before 7:00 PM to receive participants. If you have problems please call to my cell, but not beyond 6:55 PM – 604 789 7625. If you are in iPhone or MAC computer, please discuss with JoAnn Primeau 607 987 8556. If you are on a PC or Android phone or a land line, please contact me during the day at my cell 604 789 7625.

CONVALIDATION OF MARRIAGE

If you have been civilly married (not in Church) & would like to convalidate your marriage, please contact either Father Steny or the Parish Office by phone or email.

BAPTISM BIB EMBROIDERY

Extra hands are needed for simple hand embroidery on baptism bibs. Please contact the Parish Office.