

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159 – 671 Water Ave. : Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 21, 2017

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday –9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Mimi LaBossiere, Ann Vinet, Don Appel, Lew and Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Gerard Born, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Rita Rocan, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, Amanda Paller.

Last Sunday Offering

\$General
Building and Maintenance
\$Average Weekly Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Project Advance: Our appreciation goes out to all parishioners who have made a gift to Project Advance 2017. ***To date, we have received 10 gifts (13.3%) totaling \$7,600.*** Remember that funds received over our Diocesan goal (\$5,000.) will be returned to the Parish. Please continue to respond in prayer and generosity. Our sharing reflects our caring. Thank you.

Faith

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers" (Ephesians 1:15).

God has called us to live a life of faith. Living in fear, worry, doubt, or unbelief is the opposite of living by faith. Living by faith means we can believe something even if we don't see it; it means we can be sure of something even if we don't understand it; it means we can count upon something even before we receive it.

Faith is based upon who God is and what He has said. Faith never guesses, it trusts. Faith is not wishful thinking, but a confidence that is based upon God's promises.

Faith trusts completely in what God has done for us in Christ. Faith is the hand that receives from God the gift of salvation that is found in Jesus Christ. Faith says, "God will never lie to me." Faith says, "God knows the way and I am content to follow." Faith says, "God has all the wisdom and I am ready to listen." Faith says, "God is altogether good and the best choice I can make is to do His will."

Think of people in your family, community, and Church who are honestly striving to live her or his Catholic faith? Hold this person in your heart. Mediate on how this person has influenced you as a Catholic. How has he or she helped you on your faith journey? Consider writing your own prayer of thanks to God for this person's faith.

Reflection on today's Gospel – John 14:15-21

In today's Gospel, we find a deeply personal moment is recorded when Jesus speaks in the privacy of the Upper Room where He is celebrating the Last Supper with His closest friends. Jesus' conversation centres on His personal life as He speaks of God, His Father. Jesus tells the Apostles that when He departs He will not leave them alone and on their own but will send them His Spirit. Jesus promises to send the Advocate, "*the Spirit of truth,*" to help His Apostles, including us, to carry on His mission of bringing the Gospel to the world. Jesus knows that the work and mission He will entrust to His Church will not be easy. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will always be present to His followers, guiding them in the way of truth and helping them to grow in their faith.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our own lives today is a reason for us to have hope. Jesus did not leave the Apostles to struggle without the help of His Spirit and He will not leave us on our own either. We have His Word for this. The Holy Spirit loves and cares for us and is our strength and encouragement in times of trial, just as much as He was for the Apostles.

In the Holy Spirit we have a helper and comforter who makes Jesus present to every person in their individual situation. We need the Holy Spirit in our lives so we can live according to the teachings of Jesus. The Holy Spirit guides us to the truth so we may live as more faithful disciples of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is already within us, ready to transform us. The Holy Spirit is constantly encouraging us to spend time in prayer, to receive the Sacraments, to repent of our sins, and to reach out in love to our brothers and sisters. We thank God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that work in countless hidden ways to deepen our faith, fill us with strength and encouragement, and renew our lives.

As we begin this sixth week of Easter, let us pray that the Holy Spirit *will* open our hearts to whatever *will* help us to grow in the Lord. May we always be open and receptive to the Holy Spirit in our lives. How do you think the Holy Spirit *will* come into your life? What might you do to invite the Spirit to be part of your life each day? Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of Your love.

Are you Jesus?

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Vancouver. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner.

In their rush through the airport, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane, just in time. **All but one.** He told the others to go without him and went back to where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did.

The 16-year-old girl, the apple seller, **was totally blind!** She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks, as she groped for her spilled produce, the crowd swirling about her, rushing to their flight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped reorganize her display. He set aside the bruised and battered apples in a separate basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued, "I hope we didn't spoil your day today too badly." As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "**Mister . . .**" He paused and turned to look back.

She continued, "**Are you Jesus?**"

He couldn't get that question out of his head for days. It was such a simple, small-scale event, but it made him see clearly what following Christ was really all about. "**Love one another as I have loved you.**" **To be a Catholic is to be another Christ to others.**