

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159 – 671 Water Ave. : Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 1, 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

\$ Envelopes
\$ Loose
\$ Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Project Advance: We sincerely thank the **38 families** in our Parish who have already **donated \$20,740. There are 49.3% of our Parish families that have not yet participated.** There is still time to donate! Please place an envelope marked “*Project Advance*” into the offertory basket. The donations exceeding the Diocesan commitment of \$5,000 will be put into the *Building Fund Account* to cover future building maintenance costs.

Moving! New phone number? New address? New member of the Parish?

Please notify Father Gordon @ 778.928.1641 or visit the Office to update your personal information. Thank you so much.

Reflection on Sunday’s Gospel: Matthew 21.28-32

We find in today’s Gospel we are not dealing with two individuals, but with two groups of people: the sinners and the tax collectors group, and the “chief priests and elders of the people” group. Jesus is not praising either group. Both groups are imperfect, but He is saying that one of them is better than the other.

Neither son in the parable acted in a way that would bring total joy to his father. Both were unsatisfactory. But the one who finally obeys his father, is a lot better than the other. The Readings today challenge us to accept *personal responsibility* for repentance of our sins and conversion of heart.

In today's Gospel, the parable of the two sons is addressed to the chief priests and elders of the people, and to all of us today. Its purpose is to show the chief priests and elders that they must take personal responsibility for their sins and their disobedience to God. By means of the story the Jewish leaders are invited to see themselves, much like looking into a mirror. They may have the right credentials and all the nice words, but they are not doing what God wills.

The parable outrages the religious people. They realize the first son represents the outcast sinners who said "no" to God but then repented and follow God's way, and so gained entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. Here we have an example of someone who takes personal responsibility for his life.

However, the second son represents the chief priests and elders. They said "yes" by promising to work for God but failed to do so, and so they have excluded themselves from the Kingdom of Heaven. Here we have an example of total disobedience of personal responsibility to God.

The challenge Jesus presents is our 'yes' or 'no' in our obedience to God and the repentance of our sins. The different attitudes of the two sons in their saying 'yes' and 'no' give us cause to think carefully because there is a mixture of both their personalities in our own personal make-up. God gives us our free will.

No matter who we are, we possess the freedom to say 'yes' or 'no' to God, and we also have the ability to repent of our sins and change the direction of our lives. The parable teaches us that promises can never take the place of commitment. Often it is easier at the time to say 'yes' and then not carry out the promise, the commitment, the action, much like the second son who says 'yes' yet does not repent. Jesus' parable is speaking to us in our own lives as well today.

When we willingly acknowledge *personal responsibility* for our sins, change our ways and say yes to God, we will reap rewards greater than anything we could ever imagine. The tax collectors and sinners took personal responsibility for their sins, changed their hearts and lives, and by doing so, they reaped the Kingdom of God, and *so can we*.

We are called through Christ to repentance of our sins. One can never underestimate the power of repentance, not only to change a person's life and redirect it toward God, but as a sign of goodness and faithfulness. Repentance is a gift of the Holy Spirit and it is good that we have this wonderful *free* gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession, instituted by Christ, Himself. How long has it been since you received this free gift of Jesus' love and forgiveness in Confession?

First Friday – October 6th

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM.

Everyone is welcomed to take off his or her shoes and spend an hour with our Lord.

St. Stephen of Hungary was a great example of faith in action

The Magyar tribes invaded southeastern Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries. Stephen was the elder son of the first Catholic leader of the Magyars. Unlike his father, who had accepted Baptism mainly for political reasons, Stephen took his Catholic identity seriously.

At age 22 he succeeded his father, and began his life-long work of bring stability, order, and justice to the rival Magyar tribes, so that the Catholic faith could take deeper root in the souls of his people. Eventually he was **crowned the first King of Hungary** by the Pope, and he successfully turned the chaotic territory into a prosperous and organized nation. Through all his struggles, he strove to fulfill his royal duties in life in a way that would please Christ dedicating himself entirely to the spiritual and material good of his subjects.

He was often found in disguise, distributing alms to homeless people and cripples camped out in the city streets. His disguises were so good that once the crowd of beggars actually threw him to the ground, stole the money and food bags he was using to hand out offerings, and left him in the dust.

Stephen overcame great opposition to institute a policy whereby every ten towns was required to construct at least one Church and support at least one priest, so that all his citizens could receive the Sacraments and be instructed in the Catholic faith. No corruption stained his regime, and when he died at 63, his tomb immediately became a favourite place of pilgrimage and devotion. ***St. Stephen truly understood that real faith requires real action.***