

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159 – 671 Water Ave. : Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Father Gordon A. Cook, OMI
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Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 10, 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 **33 families** in our Parish who have already **donated \$15,660. There are 56% 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 18:15-20

In today’s Gospel, Jesus says to His disciples, “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.” He doesn’t say, “Put up with it, suffer it, endure it.” He says, “Go and confront him or her with his or her wrongdoing.” Although very sensitive and extremely hard to practice, Jesus’ challenge of *fraternal correction* is probably one of the most difficult to live out and yet it is vital in our faith.

It goes without saying that the correction of offending acts by our brothers and sisters in Christ are seldom welcomed and those who need it most always like it least. Correction is never easy nor received easily and can be embarrassing as it may carry with it the risk of losing a long

established friendship. People are sensitive to correction, and rightly so, if it is not done in charity and if it is not done tactfully.

Jesus encourages us to be open and honest with each other and to be attentive when someone sins against us or against the community. Being honest with a person when we know he or she has sinned is a way of showing respect to that person, a way of bringing peace and a way of living the message of the Gospel to "love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus' words carry a very clear message concerning our responsibility towards the salvation of others within our family, within our community. To carry out this responsibility does not mean we are to be prying busybodies and interfering in people's lives. Yet, Jesus teaches us to go to the person who is sinning and talk it over. Some people find it much easier to simply cut someone off rather than become involved in correcting their offending acts or commit the sin of omission by remaining silent.

Out of His heart of love, Jesus calls us to help our brothers and sisters in Christ, to seek the best for them and to lead them back to the Father. Sometimes this may include saying things that are difficult in order to protect and nurture their relationship with God. We love because Christ first loved us, and out of this love, we seek to build one another up in our Lord. Without the love of Christ, we risk speaking out of self-righteousness, or judgment, or out of feelings of superiority. We can easily understand how such correction could result in hurt and shame.

Love is the one way that cannot hurt the offender. If we have the ability to convey a genuine concern, a little honest discussion in charity can often clear the air and restore our relationship with the person. Regardless of our feelings for others, we are to love them, to help whenever we can, to build them up rather than tear them down.

Homily by Pope Francis –July 2017

"You can have flaws, be anxious, and ever angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you.

Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments.

To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity. Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves.

To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul.

It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life. Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified.

It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us. To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple. It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes".

It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry". It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you". It is to have the ability to say "I love you".

May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness. That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start all over again. For only then will you be in love with life.

You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculpture serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence.

Never give up Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show. "

<p style="text-align: center;">CWA MEETING – Monday September 11 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. All ladies of the Parish are invited.</p>
