

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159 – 671 Water Ave. : Hope, BC V0X 1L0
Parish phone number: 604 869 5382 - Parish email: ologhope@telus.net
Parish website: <http://ologhope.rcav.org/>

Father Gordon A. Cook, OMI
Email address: gacook96@gmail.com Cell phone number: 778 928 1641

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 24, 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 20:1-16

The parable in Matthew’s Gospel today is a challenge for all of us. Our first instinct of social injustice would tend to be outrage. Seen through the filter of the world, its concerns and rules of fairness, it’s so easy for us to side with the labourers in this parable who thought that, since they had worked more hours, they should be paid more. They toiled for nearly twelve hours in the heat and sun for one denarius, which was the value of a full day’s work back in those days.

There are two puzzling questions in today’s parable. First is the question of fairness and the second is, “Who are the eleventh-hour people?” On the question of fairness, it is natural to think about the unfairness of the first workers receiving the same wage as the last workers. *But what we*

fail to consider is that Jesus is really telling a parable about the Kingdom of God. Fairness is not the issue in the story. None of us *deserves* anything from God; none of us could ever cause God to be in debt to us.

Everything we have, even life itself, is a free gift graciously bestowed on us. In serving God, we receive back much more that we could ever give to God. Working in the vineyard of God's Kingdom should not be seen as a burden but rather as a great privilege! If we have responded early in our life to God's call, we are not unfortunate or ill-used; we are favoured. If we have responded late, we are favoured too! Early responders to God's call, or late responders to His call, we are all favoured equally by God.

We notice that the owner in the parable did not compare one group of workers with another one. The same is true for us. The parable teaches us not to compare ourselves with others or to be envious of others. The most horrible part of envy is that it is a negative reaction to some goodness. This is what happens in today's parable. The envy of the first workers draws a negative reaction from the goodness of God to the other group. The parable then is making the point that God is generous and merciful. His generosity is extended to *everybody*.

Now let us look at the second question of who are the eleventh-hour people who the owner called to work. The eleventh-hour people were the Israelite people who were considered the sinners, the poor, the tax collectors, the prostitutes. It was not that they did not *want* to work, it was that no one wanted *them*. These people were considered to be the lowest of the lowest in the Jewish society and therefore, were outcasts.

We can also apply this parable to ourselves. Unfortunately, this attitude towards the salvation of sinners is not confined to the Jewish people only. Today there are people who would regard themselves as devout Catholics who will make comments about eleventh-hour people and deathbed conversions, comments which are anything but charitable. They cannot accept that, after struggling all their lives in the service of God, giving time to prayer, Mass and the Sacraments, they end up the same as those who don't bother with religion and turn to God only at the end of their life.

As Catholics, we are called to rejoice whenever anyone comes to know our Lord, whether early in their lives or late. More importantly, Jesus is seeking the sinners and the lost so we must not be an obstacle to these people but reach out in compassion to help them attain the Kingdom of God. Jesus teaches that the people who are lowest in the world's view will be the highest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The parable of the Kingdom of Heaven teaches us that eternal salvation is a *free gift* for all God's children. God treats *all* His children with equal generosity, grace, love and mercy. For this we can be truly thankful.

The Men's Retreat is for every man searching for a deeper relationship with God and a fuller understanding of what it means to live as a son of the Father. Get away from the busyness and demands of our schedules to personally encounter God the Father and experience His generous love. Join us Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, at Rockridge Canyon, Princeton, 2000 Willies Ranch Rd. Register Today! Please see the bulleting for more information.

Starting Planning for the Parish Potluck on October 28 after the 4:30 PM Mass
Bring your favourite dish of food to share with others and have a wonderful evening of meeting other members of your Parish. For more information: Michelle 604.869.2571

Christmas Craft Fair

Saints Joachim and Ann Parish Hall
2827 – 273rd Street, Aldergrove

Friday: November 24th – 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday: November 25th – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

"Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them, every day begin the task anew." St. Francis de Sales