

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: ologhope.rcav.org

Father Gordon A. Cook, OMI

Presentation of the Lord – February 2, 2020

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 all our parishioners who are ill, at home, or in the hospital, in particular:

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

Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, David De Beer, Brian Lloyd, Brian Sparkes, Maxwell Paller, Art Pottie, Jasper Judge-Dokken

Last Sunday Offering

\$ Envelopes Number of envelopes:
\$ Loose
\$ Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

February 7th – 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Everyone is invited to spend an hour with Our Lord

Hamper Update for 2019

Thank you very much for your food and money donations for the hampers in 2019 and at Christmas. It was greatly appreciated.

We gave hampers between 4 and 5 families from January to September.

We had a man with health issues who was caring for his family who also had health issues. During this time one of his family member died. He expressed to us that without our assistance he did not know what he was going to do to help feed his family. He was extremely grateful. He moved to live closer to a family member who is now his caregiver, which is a blessing.

In December a single man with health issues died before our hamper day. We assisted him for some time and he was always so grateful for our help. He did not have family close by and so he looked forward to our visits with a food hamper.

We will continue providing food hampers to whoever are in need, especially when children are involved, in 2020. Phyllis Stewart, Rita Hall and Julie Umemura.

CWA Meeting – February 12, at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall

On the agenda is planning for the **World Day of Prayer** on Friday, March 6 and **Saint Patrick's Tea** on Tuesday, March 17. All ladies of our parish are welcomed to enjoy time with your fellow ladies.

St. Blasé

On Monday, February 3rd is the Memorial of St. Blaise. He is the patron saint of people with sore throats. Traditionally on this day, we have the ritual of the blessing of throats. Using two unlighted candles in the form of an cross, the priest touches the throat of each person, praying, "Through the intercession of Saint Blasé may god deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil: + in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We know more about the devotion to St. Blasé by Catholics around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. The Council of Oxford, in 1222, prohibited servile labour in England on Blasé feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor and for decades many Catholics have sought the annual St. Blasé blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blasé was martyred in his Episcopal City of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary *Acts of St. Blasé* was written 400 years later. According to them Blasé was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blasé was apparently forced to flee to the backcountry. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

As the hunters hauled Blasé off to prison, the legend has it, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

St. John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890)

John Henry Newman was a popular Anglican preacher before he converted to Catholicism in 1845. Blessed with a keen intellect and a poet's heart, he wrote more than 40 books, thousands of letters and numerous hymns, including the beloved "*Lead, Kindly Light.*"

The London-born saint was appointed a cardinal in 1879. A champion of an informed Catholic laity, he founded the Catholic University of Ireland, University College of Dublin, where his progressive ideas included launching a series of evening lectures for students who worked during the day.

A few years after Newman's death, a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania read Newman's landmark autobiography, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*. He was inspired to form a community where Catholic students could meet and talk about their shared faith. Today, Newman Clubs and Centers serve the spiritual needs of Catholic students at more than 2,000 public and private colleges and universities in the United States.

Reflection: Newman's hymn, "*Lead, Kindly Light,*" is a favourite among people of many faiths. It was sung in the concentration camps of the Holocaust, on board the Titanic and at the Western Front during World War I. It was even a favourite of Mahatma Gandhi. In it, Newman speaks of the long night and being far from home. He cannot see the path ahead but asks God's guidance, saying, "*one step is enough for me.*"

What is one step that God is asking you to take today to grow closer to Him?

God has placed in our hearts such an infinite desire for happiness that nothing can satisfy it but God himself. All earthly fulfillment gives us only a foretaste of eternal happiness. Above and beyond that, we should be drawn to God. (YOUCAT #28)

The Catholic family has often been described as a **mini-church**, and is intended by God to exhibit all the characteristics of the whole *Body of Christ*. There is much to be learned by pondering this fact in our hearts and asking God questions about what it means for our families today to be min-churches. All parents are individually called by God to play a special role in forming and sustaining the mini-church of their family.