

## ***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

### **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 19, 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.

#### **Catholic Press Collection: February 1 and 2, 2020**

February is Catholic Press Month. On February 2 and 3 there is a second collection. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to show their appreciation for the receiving the B.C. Catholic. The collection helps defray your parish costs for mailing the paper. For those who do not receive the B.C. Catholic and would like to receive it, please talk to Father Gord. to put your name on the mailing list.

#### ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>***

On January 18 was the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Unity among Christians. In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he appeals to his listeners to not be divided. He appeals for them to be united in the same mind and the same purpose. This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all Churches to pray together that they may be one, as Christ is One Body. At the celebration of the Mass, we unite ourselves with the words of Eucharistic Prayer Three: "O merciful Father, gather to Yourself all Your children scattered throughout the world." We need to strive to promote peace and unity among our various faith Churches. This week gives us the opportunity to be witnesses of our faith to others and to open up our faith to others.

### **Beginning of Ordinary Time**

On Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> we began the Season of Ordinary Time. *Ordinary Time* signifies that no special liturgical focus, like Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter or Pentecost is being celebrated now. Yet, this time is spiritually rich. It presents us with the opportunity to reflect more deeply on the things Jesus taught and did during the time of His public ministry. From this reflection, we can come to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, what He can do for us, and what it means to live as one of His followers. This is one of the reasons the dominant colour of this season of the Church is green, the colour of hope and the colour of growth.

### **Jesus is the Lamb of God**

In today's Gospel, St. John the Baptist calls Jesus "the Lamb of God." John uses this title twenty-times in the Book of Revelation. By calling Christ the "Lamb of God," St. John is telling us that those ancient images are fulfilled in Jesus. It brings together three images that would have been familiar to the Jews of those times.

The first image:

- ✓ In the Old Covenant, God required the Jews to sacrifice a lamb to expiate the sins of the people (Exodus 29:39). The lamb symbolized the price to be paid for sin.

The second image:

- ✓ The holy day of the Jews was and still remains today the Passover. In the Passover ceremony each family sacrifices and eats a lamb to recall their liberation from Egypt in the days of Moses. The Passover lamb signified God's merciful and saving love.

The third image;

- ✓ A lamb going silently and docilely to be slaughtered is one of the images used to describe the coming Messiah. He was going to take Israel's sins upon Himself and wipe them away through His suffering obedience.

By calling Jesus the "Lamb of God," John reminds us that all of these Old Testament symbols had been pointing towards Christ – the true Saviour.

### **We are all called to Be Holy**

John the Baptist's mission was to help the people of Israel get ready to recognize and receive Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah. God equipped John for this mission by letting him see the Holy Spirit come down upon Christ when Jesus was baptized.

Centuries before, with Israel's unfaithfulness to God and the destruction of the first Temple in Jerusalem, the prophet Ezekiel had actually seen the presence of God, the glory of God, leaving the Temple. With John the Baptist, the last in the long line of prophets, that Divine Presence finally comes back. He sees the visible presence of God return to Israel as the Holy Spirit descends upon Christ in the form of a dove. The Old Covenant, based on the law, had not been strong enough to re-establish full communion between God and humanity.

But in Christ, a New Covenant has been established, and that communion has come to stay. When Catholics are baptized, they enter into that communion. We are anointed with the Oil of Chrism, which symbolizes the coming of that same Holy Spirit into our souls, just as it came upon Christ as His baptism. And at Confirmation, a second anointing with that same Chrism Oil is the instrument of the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, just as it came to the Apostles at Pentecost.

In the Old Covenant, the physical Temple had been filled with God's presence and glory. In the New Covenant, the age of the Church, every Catholic has become, in Christ, a Temple of God's presence on earth.

And that is why every Catholic has the same vocation – to become holy, to shape our lives in accordance with the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts. This is exactly what St. Paul means when he writes to the Corinthians, "***you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy.***"

***On the weekend of February 7 – 9, there will be a vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. For more information call 604.826.8715***