

## **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

### **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 9, 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.

#### **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.

**Sunday Singers Wanted ; Please come up to the choir loft and help us sing.**

#### **Reflections on Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 5:13-16**

In today's Gospel, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from St. Matthew's Gospel continues. Jesus does not say to the Apostles that they are not to "*become*" but that they "*are salt*", they "*are light*." Jesus does not tell us to *become* the world's light, any more than He tells us to *become* its salt. *We are salt and light already.* Jesus calls us to live in accordance with what we *already are*.

Salt purifies, seasons, and preserves. This describes the first four beatitudes: *poor in spirit, mourning, being meek, and desiring justice.* This is the interior life of the true follower of Jesus. Without this, life loses its taste and "*is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.*"

Light removes darkness, attracts and shows the way. The last four Beatitudes are this light: *showing mercy, being pure in heart, reconciling to peace, witnessing and suffering.* These qualities show externally what the true interior life of the true follower of Jesus is. They light up people's lives in the virtues of Christ. Jesus concludes by saying to us, "*let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*"

The first image of being the light of Christ began for us at our Baptism. The priest held up a candle and said to our parents and Godparents, *“Receive the Light of Christ.”* Then the priest instructed them saying, *“This light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly and he/she is to walk always as a child of the light. Keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart always.”*

The First Reading tells us how we can be a light to the world by sharing our bread with the hungry, by clothing the naked, by not turning our back on any human need, by removing oppression, malicious speech and gossip. These are all concrete ways in which we flavour the earth with God’s goodness, and allow light to break forth in darkness.

Yes, being a true follower of Christ is not easy, but in the end, all of us who *are* the *“salt of the earth”* and who *are* *“the light of world”* know that we can make a difference. May we be salt so that others will thirst for Christ and may we reflect the light of our faith to one another by living peacefully and lovingly with one another, while at the same time giving honour and glory to God the Father.

May Our Lord grant you, as Saint Paul says, *so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God*, that we may be salt for the earth and light for the world.

### ***St. Lorenzo Ruiz (1600 – 1637) – Patron Saint of the Philippines***

Lorenzo Ruiz was born in Manila about 80 years after Catholicism was introduced to the Philippines. He was an altar boy and sacristan. He and his wife, Rosario, had three children and lived a quiet life of work and devotion. In 1636, Lorenzo was accused of a murder he did not commit. Knowing he would face the death penalty, he left home, praying he could return after being cleared of the charges. Connecting with Dominican missionaries, Lorenzo joined them on a missionary trip to Macau.

But their ship landed in Japan, where the ruling Tokugawa Shogunate was hostile to Catholics. Lorenzo and his companions were captured and arrested while celebrating Mass. They were granted pardon on the condition that they renounce their faith and leave Japan.

The captives agreed to leave, but not as non-Catholics. The response infuriated the Shogun, who condemned them to death. During a slow and agonizing torture, Lorenzo and the others refuse to recant their Catholic faith. Lorenzo’s final words were: *“I am a Catholic. If I had a thousand lives, I would offer them all to God!”*

***St. Lorenzo Ruiz is the protomartyr (first martyr) of the Philippines and the first Filipino to be canonized. He is a patron Saint of altar servers and the Filipino people.***

### ***The Law of the Garbage Truck***

One day a man hopped in a taxi in Vancouver and they took off for the airport. They were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of them. The taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at the taxi driver. The taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And he was really friendly.

So the man asks, *“Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!”* This is when the taxi driver taught the man what is now called, *“The Law of the Garbage Truck.”*

He explains that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, full of hatred and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they’ll dump it on you. Don’t take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don’t take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let people who are like garbage trucks take over their day. Life’s too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so... ***“Love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don’t.” Like the taxi driver, we are called to be light and to be salt to others.***