

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (since 1930)

SHRINE TO INFANT JESUS of PRAGUE (since 2003)



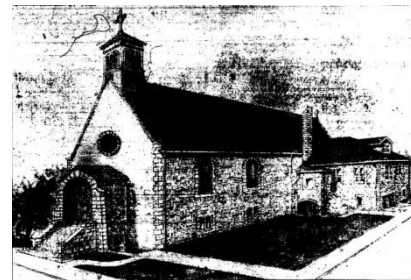
PASTOR Rev. John Domotor
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Carol Molloy
 PARISH MUSIC DIRECTOR:

PARISH WEBSITE: www.QOP.CA

www.LATINMASSVICTORIA.COM

www.QOP.CA

www.VICTORIAORDINARIATE.COM



TRADITIONAL LATIN Mass: Rev. John Domotor
 HUNGARIAN Mass: Rev. John Domotor
 SJHN-ORDINARIATE Mass: Rev. Lee Kenyon

<p align="center">IMPORTANT: IN THE HOSPITAL?</p> <p><i>If you or family member is hospitalized or is going to hospital and would like to be visited by your PARISH PRIEST, Please call the PARISH OFFICE to make this request.</i></p>	<p align="center">HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ONLY!</p> <p><i>After office hours including weekends, holidays or during the night, you can call:</i></p> <p align="right">☎ 250.889.3761</p>
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OUR LADY QUEEN of PEACE, 849 OLD ESQUIMALT Road, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V9A 4W9

MONDAYS: PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED ☎ 250.384.3884
 Parish Office OPEN TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Contact e-mail: office@qop.ca Fax: 250.384.3664

SUNDAY	10:00am	12:00	2:30 am 3:30 on 3rd Sunday of the month	2:00 pm on 3rd Sunday of the month
	HOLY MASS	TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS	ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER	HUNGARIAN MASS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER www.VICTORIAORDINARIATE.COM	9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	10:00 am	9:30 am
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS	-	-	-	-	8:30 am	-
ROSARY	-	11:30	11:30	11:30	11:30	-
WEEKDAY MASS	-	12:10	12:10	12:10	12:10	-
HOLY MASS	-	-	-	-	-	5:00pm
CONFESION: Please ring the bell, enter when green light is on * 1 ST SATURDAY of the month	-	11:30	11:30	11:30	11:30	4:00 – 4:45 3:00 -4:00*
Devotion to MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Devotion to INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE	-	after the Noon Mass	-	-	-	-

IMPORTANT: IN THE HOSPITAL? If you or family member is hospitalized or is going to hospital and would like to be visited by your PARISH PRIEST. Contact: PARISH OFFICE: 250-384-3884

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ONLY! After office hours including weekends, holidays or during the night, you can call: ☎ 250.889.3761

<p>The CWL: meets monthly on the 2nd WEDNESDAY after the Noon Mass PRESIDENT: ELSIE LAMBTON (No meetings in July & August)</p>	<p>KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS: Contact: Don Lambton ☎ 250.995.1531 e-mail: lambton@shaw.ca</p>
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KEEPING IN CONTACT: We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here, celebrating with us, whether long time residents or newly arrived in the Parish. We thank God that you are with us. If we may assist you, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or mail to the PARISH OFFICE (address on top). Please mark the proper BOX

New Parishioner

I am going to be in the hospital, please call on me

I would like Sunday Collection Envelopes

Have moved here is my new address:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

☎ HOME ☎ WORK

e-mail: _____ @ _____

'Legacies'

Our Lady Queen of Peace acknowledges with gratitude past legacies which we use to maintain the integrity of our Church.

Please include us in your 'LAST WILL', how will we survive without it?

Legacies are a way of providing assurance that the parish has income or savings in the event of unforeseen emergencies.

The monthly 'Building Fund and Collection' pays for maintenance/replacement items.

Report Sexual Abuse to an Independent Agency

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer visit:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

or call: 1-800-968-3146

To report abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit:

<https://bishopreportingsystem.ca/>

or call: 1-866-892-3737

A National Indian Residential School Crisis Line

A National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up by the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS) to provide support for former students and those affected.

People can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour line at 1-866-925-4419

Vancouver Island Crisis-Line

The Vancouver Island Crisis Society is contracted by Island Health. We are a registered non-profit agency whose services include: **24-hour crisis lines: 1-888-494-3888**

Crisis Text Services: 250-800-3806

(from your mobile) 6pm - 10pm - 7 days a week

Crisis Chat Services: 6pm - 10pm - 7 days a week

We work in partnership with Island Health to provide public access to Mental Health & Substance Use services in the communities administered by Island Health.

Sacramental Information

Baptism: Call the office at least 3 months in advance to arrange an appointment with the Pastor. It is assumed that the family has Our Lady Queen of Peace parish connection and practices the faith by attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis. You may meet with the Pastor and take the course even if your child has not yet been born. **Parents are expected to participate in the Baptismal preparation.** At least one Godparent or both must be baptized and confirmed and are practicing Catholics. **Non-parishioners are required to have a Letter of Recommendation from your Pastor to have your child Baptized in our parish.**

Marriage: at Our Lady Queen of Peace because the Church is deeply concerned about each marriage, couples are asked to give a minimum of six months' notice prior to the intended date of their wedding. Church policy requires that marriages be performed in your home parish – unless you are registered and attend elsewhere.

Funeral: at Our Lady Queen of Peace individual arrangements with a priest. Begin by calling the parish office.

'MASS INTENTIONS'

Aug 13	TUESDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 14	WEDNESDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 15	THURSDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 16	FRIDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 17	SATURDAY	5 p.m. MASS

Aug 20	TUESDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 21	WEDNESDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 22	THURSDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 23	FRIDAY	NO 12:10pm MASS
Aug 24	SATURDAY	5 p.m. MASS

Aug 27	TUESDAY	
Aug 28	WEDNESDAY	
Aug 29	THURSDAY	
Aug 30	FRIDAY	
Aug 31	SATURDAY	†Marcelina Baldauf Shirley Deidrick

Sept 3	TUESDAY	
Sept 4	WEDNESDAY	
Sept 5	THURSDAY	
Sept 6	FRIDAY	
Sept 7	SATURDAY	Holy Souls in Purgatory Ann VanNoordt

Sept 10	TUESDAY	
Sept 11	WEDNESDAY	
Sept 12	THURSDAY	
Sept 13	FRIDAY	
Sept 14	SATURDAY	personal intentions Lydia De Vera

Please remember the following persons who are ill in your prayers: Ann VanNoordt, Tony VanNoordt, Regina Brown, Marge Haake, Peter & Christine Stornebrink, Martha Fox, John & Connie Lerner,

Please Note: If you suffer from Celiac disease, we are able to offer a low-gluten Host. Please inform the priest in the sacristy before Mass.

Donations

Our parish offers the following options for your financial contributions to the parish:

- pre-numbered boxed collection envelopes or
- pre-authorized debit (PAD - weekly or monthly)

If you are a new parishioner, please print clearly on the "Parish Registration" form found on the table in the vestibule in order to receive an income tax receipt at the end of the year. If you've recently moved/changed your telephone number or email address, please contact the parish at 250-384-3884 or email office@gop.ca ASAP. Your personal contact information is held in strict confidence.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish – Pot-Luck

Everyone is invited to a pot-luck dinner following the ‘Anticipated Sunday Mass’ and devotion to ‘The Infant of Prague’ on **Sat., Aug. 31st**, this is the 21st **Anniversary** of the Shrine ‘The Infant of Prague’, designated site in “Our Lady Queen of Peace Church”.

Please sign the sheets at the back of the church.

Catholic Women’s League



Something New! An assortment of religious articles for sale in the CWL display case located on the side-landing near the parish office door.

We invite all women from our parish to join the C.W.L. Our meetings will resume on Wed. Sept. 11th at 1:00pm in the Msgr. Wood Room (small hall downstairs).

News from the Diocese

Diocesan Livestream Mass

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>

• In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has announced that 2024 will be a “Year of Prayer”. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops invites all to participate in their webinar series, titled “A Great Symphony of Prayer”.

Dr. Josephine Lombardi from St. Augustine’s Seminary will present a four-part session in October. The webinars will be recorded and made available after the completion of the final session; please register for the session if you wish to receive a notification when the recordings are available. For more information and to register, please visit

<https://tinyurl.com/yearofprayer-webinar>

• Bishop Gary, Fr. David Hogman, and Fr. Mike Favero celebrated the first Mass at the chapel of the new Providence Living at The Views facility. Located at the former site of St. Joseph’s General Hospital in Comox, Providence Living at The Views is Canada’s first public, non-profit long-term care village inspired by the dementia village concept. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/providence-living-at-the-views>

• the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops recently concluded its Triennial Forum for Dialogues. The Forum brought together participants from across the country, including the Diocese of Victoria, to take steps towards a comprehensive national ecumenical & interfaith strategy. A video recap is available online at: <https://youtu.be/ac8isk8XkE0>; for further information, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/ccb-triennial-forum-for-dialogues-concludes-with-strategic-ecumenical-vision/>

• Registration is now open for Life Restoration Ministries’ Men’s Retreat, to be held from September 20-22, 2024 at Rock-Ridge Canyon in Princeton, BC. The theme of this year's retreat is "Perfect Storms". Through inspiring talks, the Sacraments, and outdoor adventures, Jake Khym (founder of Life Restoration Ministries) and Sam Blair (retired US Navy SEAL) will guide participants through a prayerful weekend, helping them receive the perfect and transforming love of Jesus amidst life's storms. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.liferestoration.ca/mens-retreat>

• On the two-year anniversary of Pope Francis’s penitential pilgrimage to Canada, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has written a “*Letter to the People of God*” to provide an update on the steps that the Catholic Church in Canada has taken to respond to the Holy Father’s calls for a future of justice, healing, and reconciliation. It encourages Catholics across the country to continue to listen to and support residential school survivors and Indigenous communities on this journey. A copy of the letter is attached to this email, and it may also be read online at:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/from-strong-words-to-meaningful-partnership>

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/from-strong-words-to-meaningful-partnership-a-renewed-catholic-commitment-to-indigenous-reconciliation/>

FALL 2024 Pastoral Care Training Session



“God calls us to touch the lives of our aging, lonely, ill, palliative and dying sisters and brothers with accompaniment, kindness and compassion as the hands and face of Christ. In these sessions, you learn basic tools necessary to accompany those who are in need of the healing ministry of Christ.”

– Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. **Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Sat. mornings - 9:30 – noon, starting on Sept. 28 and running until Nov. 30, (with no session on Oct. 12 for Thanksgiving).** Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom.

Please register through your local parish by Sept. 13.

For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca

“I strongly recommend this Program to all Priest and Brothers, Religious and not only to Parish Visiting Volunteers, but other parish ministries [the Knights, CWL and St. Vincent de Paul] including family members and spouse care givers. It should be recommended to all of our Catholic/Christian communities.”

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Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Program

The Nine Pastoral Care Sessions to be held via Zoom

September 28 – November 30, 2024, 9:30 am – Noon

(No session on October 12 for Thanksgiving)

Session 1 – Basics of Pastoral Care – September 28

Session 2 – The Healing Ministry of Christ – October 5

- No session on October 12 -

Session 3 – Active Listening and Communication – Oct. 19

Session 4 – Elderly Isolation, Loneliness and the Journey with Dementia – Oct. 26

Session 5 – Palliative Care and the Healing Ministry for the Dying – November 2

Session 6 – The Grieving Process – November 9

Session 7 – Bereavement: Ministering to Families – November 16

Session 8 – Ministry of God’s Presence and Compassion – November 23

Session 9 – Spouse Caregiving, and Healthy Boundaries & Self-Care – November 30

Urgent Call for Volunteers

Diocesan Family Life Conference and Camp

The 10th Annual Diocesan Family Life Conference and Camp is in dire need of **8 adult volunteers (19+)** for **one hour on Sat., Aug. 18 - 10:00 am to 11:00 am**. Volunteers will **supervise a group of children 8 to 13 years of age** during **pre-planned activities** including a short movie and board games while parents attend an adult session lead by Bishop Gary. Event location is **Nanoose Bay Pentecostal Camp, 2531 Nanoose Beach Road**. Volunteers must have **up to date RMSE clearance with their parish** (Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment) including online Praesidium modules and a current Criminal Record Check. Kindly reply to **Joelle Dressler**, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization, jdressler@redvictoria.org **Volunteers are invited to stay for lunch at 11:45 am. Your service is much needed and highly appreciated! God bless!**

Filipino Catechism of the Catholic Church

You are all invited to a Leap of Faith – Come and Let us share the Finest of Bread - Filipino Mass to be celebrated at **St. Andrew's Cathedral on Sat., Aug. 24th at 7:00 pm**. Main Celebrant – Fr. Dino Villadiego
Co-celebrants – Fr. Vince Borre & Fr. Edward Jeyapalan

Rachel’s Vineyard Hosting Retreat

Rachel's Vineyard will be hosting a retreat on Vancouver Island Oct. 24 - 27. This ministry is a safe place for people to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information and to register, please contact Nicola at: rachelsvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com or 250-514-3973



The pastoral letter of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops of 2021 on human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada “For Freedom Christ Has Set us Free” remains as true now as it did then. The in-depth exploration of the issues of sexual exploitation looks at many aspects of the topic from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and is a pastoral letter that I humbly submit is important to read regularly.

You might recall that following the release of the CCCB pastoral letter, representatives from the three dioceses of Vancouver, Victoria and Saskatoon collaborated to produce a study guide, Working towards Freedom.

The following article was written by Barbara Renaud, a member of the Catholic Women’s League since 2002 and an author of two resolutions addressing sexual exploitation of women and young persons. She is a member of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee of the Archdiocese of Vancouver and vice chair of VCASE, an organization advocating for an end to sexual exploitation caused by prostitution and trafficking.

As collaborators representing the Victoria Diocese, Working Towards Freedom, I am humbled by the work that Barbara Renaud has done and continues to do. I believe you will find her article most worthy of reading. Human Sex Trafficking is beyond what is understood. Change begins with awareness. Please read and pray. Thank you, Annette Turgeon

Leave No Child Behind **by Barbara Renaud**

July 30th is designated as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, and this year’s theme is “Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking.” According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, one in three victims of human trafficking worldwide is a child. This annual campaign raises awareness of the great tragedy of modern human slavery, which Pope Francis has called an “open wound in the body of Christ.”

There are three main forms of human trafficking: labour trafficking, sex trafficking and trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. Worldwide, sex trafficking is the most common form of human trafficking, with approximately 70% of trafficking occurring for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Canada’s statistics follow the same trend, with sex trafficking being the major form of human trafficking. The reality of human trafficking here is usually a young woman or girl, manipulated or forced into prostitution.

In the Vancouver Archdiocese, the Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) Committee was established in 2014 primarily to educate and raise awareness of the reality and injustice of human trafficking in our society. The basis for their work is a belief in the dignity of the human person and the fundamental right to dignified work. As Catholics, the common good of the human family is valued over commercial interests. Catholic social teaching dictates that the poor and most in need should be cared for, not exploited.

The AHT committee recognizes that the root cause of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is to buy the bodies of women and girls. This demand for paid sex is the engine that drives the growing crime of sex trafficking both in Canada and worldwide. Recently, the United Nations published a report by Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem, on violence against women and girls. This breakthrough report, published in May of 2024, is notable in its recognition of the inherent lack of dignity in the prostitution exchange. In this way, it echoes many of the principles of Catholic social teaching.

The report is an excellent and comprehensive overview of the problems in the prostitution system, naming it as violence against women and girls. Ms. Alsalem clearly recognizes the vulnerability of marginalized women and girls and refers to the need to ensure that they are protected from the sexual

exploitation of prostitution, in which no real consent can be given. Ms. Alsalem further recognizes the inherent lack of dignity of the prostitution system stating that “Prostitution is also incompatible with the international standards for decent work.” Historically, the United Nations has addressed the problems within the prostitution system.

The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted in 1949, states that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person. Unfortunately, in our modern society, many have taken the view that “sex work is work” and do not recognize the vulnerability of those who are exploited through trafficking and prostitution, many of whom are marginalized through poverty or homelessness, among other factors. Children in care are particularly vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation. This recent UN report counteracts the narrative that prostitution is consensual and delves into the problem of demand for commercial paid sex. Ms. Alsalem recognizes that prostitution affects all of society, stating that the “perceived right of men to purchase a sex act normalizes the systematic violence inflicted on women through prostitution...” Ms. Alsalem recommends the adoption of an abolitionist legal framework, which has sometimes been called the “Nordic model” of law. This legal model includes five pillars: decriminalization of women in prostitution, providing support and exit pathways, criminalizing the purchase of sexual acts, criminalizing all forms of pimping, and implementing sensitization campaigns for sexual act buyers. Canada’s government has implemented an abolitionist framework with the introduction of the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act in 2014, however, this law has been sporadically enforced across the country. Although the laws exist to charge the sex buyer and the pimp, the support for those who have been trafficked and prostituted is not there, nor has the public been educated about the law and the harm to society caused by this exploitation. The Anti-Human Trafficking Committee applauds this report and its recognition of the intrinsic human rights abuses in the prostitution system and the harm caused to women and girls, particularly those on the margins of our society. The Catholic teachings of the dignity of the human being and the worth of dignified work, as well as particular care for the marginalized are highlighted. As we approach the Day Against Human Trafficking on July 30th, there are several resources that will help Catholics learn more about this growing crime.

The Church has addressed the problem of human trafficking in Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking (2018) a document created as a result of consultations with Church leaders, scholars, experienced practitioners and partner organizations working in the field. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops responded to this document with their 2021 pastoral letter on human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada, For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free. This in-depth exploration of the issues of sexual exploitation looks at many aspects of the topic from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching. Following the release of the CCCB pastoral letter, representatives from the three dioceses of Vancouver, Victoria and Saskatoon collaborated to produce a study guide, Working Towards Freedom, that gives an opportunity for small groups

to study the letter, with suggestions for many resources. These resources, and others are available on the website of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, at rcav.org/aht Special Rapporteur Reem Alsalem’s report can be accessed on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5648-prostitution-and-violence-against-women-and-girls-report>

The secretive nature of this crime means that many people may be unaware of how pervasive it is worldwide and in our own nation. Bringing this horrific crime into the light through information and education is a way that Catholics can take action to reduce the exploitation of marginalized people

Women's Ministries Team

Greetings from the Beloved Women's Ministries Team! We are excited to announce our 7th annual Women's Retreat **Nov 15- 17 2024** at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island near Campbell River. All women 19+ are invited. Our theme this year is Agape! (“A- gap- ay.”). Agape is a beautiful biblical Greek word, referring to the highest form of love. It is used to describe the love of God for man and of man for God. Agape is the selfless, giving, unconditional type of active love. Registration will open **August 22nd**, the feast of the Queenship of Mary. We recommend not delaying as we do expect to sell out! Please email vicatholicwomensretreat@gmail.com for more information.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

1st September 2024

Hope and Act with Creation

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

“Hope and Act with Creation” is the theme of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to be held on 1st September 2024. The theme is drawn from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans (8:19- 25), where the Apostle explains what it means for us to live according to the Spirit and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of faith, namely, newness of life in Christ.

1. Let us begin with a question, one perhaps without an immediately obvious answer. If we are truly believers, how did we come to have faith? It is not simply because we believe in something transcendent, beyond the power of reason, the unattainable mystery of a distant and remote God, invisible and unnameable. Rather, as Saint Paul tells us, it is because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. We are believers because the very love of God “has been poured into our hearts” (Rom 5:5) and the Spirit is now truly “the pledge of our inheritance” (Eph 1:14), constantly prompting us to strive for eternal goods, according to the fullness of Jesus’ authentic humanity. The Spirit enables believers to be creative and pro-active in charity. He sends us forth on a great journey of spiritual freedom, yet one that does not eliminate the tension between the Spirit’s way of thinking and that of the world, whose fruits are opposed to each other (cf. Gal 5:16-17). We know that the first fruit of the Spirit, which sums up all the others, is love. Led by the Holy Spirit, believers are children of God and can turn to him with the words “Abba, Father” (Rom 8:15), just as Jesus did.

Moreover, they can do so with the freedom of those who no longer fall back into the fear of death, for Jesus has risen from the dead.

This is our great hope: God's love has triumphed and continues to triumph over everything. Indeed, even in the face of physical death, future glory is already assured for those who live the new life of the Spirit. Nor does this hope disappoint, as was affirmed in the recent Bull of Indiction of the forthcoming Jubilee. [1]

2. The life of a Christian, then, is one of faith, active in charity and abounding in hope, as we await the Lord's return in glory. We are not troubled by the "delay" of the Parousia, Christ's second coming; for us the important question is whether, "when the Son of man comes, he will find faith on earth" (Lk 18:8). Faith is a gift, the fruit of the Spirit's presence in us, but it is also a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus' commandment of love. Such is the blessed hope to which we must bear witness. Yet where, when, and how are we to bear that witness? Surely by caring for the flesh of suffering humanity. As people who dare to dream, we must dream with our eyes wide open, impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all. Christian salvation enters into the depths of the world's suffering, which embraces not only humanity but also the entire universe, nature itself, and the *oikos*, the home and living environment of humanity. Salvation embraces creation as an "earthly paradise," mother earth, which is meant to be a place of joy and a promise of happiness for all. Our Christian optimism is founded on a living hope: it realizes that everything is ordered to the glory of God, to final consummation in his peace and to bodily resurrection in righteousness, as we pass "from glory to glory." Nonetheless, in the passage of time we are not exempt from pain and suffering: the whole creation groans (cf. Rom 8:19-22), we Christians groan (cf. vv. 23-25) and the Spirit himself groans (cf. vv. 26-27). This groaning expresses apprehension and suffering, together with longing and desire. It gives voice to our trust in God and our reliance on his loving yet demanding presence in our midst, as we look forward to the fulfilment of his plan, which is joy, love and peace in the Holy Spirit.

3. The whole of creation is caught up in this process of new birth and, in groaning, looks forward to its liberation. This entails an unseen and imperceptible process of growth, like that of "a mustard seed that becomes a great tree" or "leaven in the dough" (cf. Mt 13:31-33). The beginnings are tiny, but the expected results can prove to be infinite in their beauty. Similar to the anticipation of a birth – the revelation of the children of God – hope can be seen as the possibility of remaining steadfast amid adversity, of not losing heart in times of tribulation or in the face of human evil. Christian hope does not disappoint, nor does it deceive. The groaning of creation, of Christians and of the Spirit is the anticipation and expectation of a salvation already at work; all the same, we continue to find ourselves enduring what Saint Paul describes as "tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword" (Rom 8:35). Hope, then, is an alternative reading of history and human affairs. It is not illusory, but realistic, with the realism of a faith that sees what is unseen. This hope is patient expectation, like that of Abraham. I think of that great visionary believer, Joachim of Fiore, the Calabrian abbot who, in the words of Dante Alighieri, "was endowed with a spirit of prophecy". [2] At a time of violent conflicts between the Papacy and the

Empire, the Crusades, the outbreak of heresies and growing worldliness in the Church, Joachim was able to propose the ideal of a new spirit of coexistence among people, based on universal fraternity and Christian peace, the fruit of a life lived in the spirit of the Gospel. I spoke of this spirit of social friendship and universal fraternity in *Fratelli Tutti*, but this harmony among men and women should also be extended to creation, in a "situated anthropocentrism" (*Laudate Deum*, 67) and in a sense of responsibility for a humane and integral ecology, the path to salvation for our common home and for us who inhabit it.

4. Why is there so much evil in the world? Why so much injustice, so many fratricidal wars that kill children, destroy cities, pollute the environment and leave mother earth violated and devastated? Implicitly evoking the sin of Adam, Saint Paul states: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now" (Rom 8:22). The moral struggles of Christians are linked to the "groaning" of creation, ever since the latter "was subjected to futility" (v. 20). The entire universe and every creature therein groans and yearns "impatiently" for its present condition to be overcome and its original state to be restored. Our liberation thus includes that of all other creatures who, in solidarity with the human condition, were placed under the yoke of slavery. Creation itself, like humanity, was enslaved, albeit through no fault of its own, and finds itself unable to fulfil the lasting meaning and purpose for which it was designed. It is subject to dissolution and death, aggravated by the human abuse of nature. At the same time, the salvation of humanity in Christ is a sure hope also for creation, for, "the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Consequently, thanks to Christ's redemption, it is possible to contemplate in hope the bond of solidarity between human beings and all other creatures.

5. In our hopeful and persevering expectation of the glorious return of Jesus, the Holy Spirit keeps us, the community of believers, vigilant; he continually guides us and calls us to conversion, to a change in lifestyle in order to resist the degradation of our environment and to engagement in that social critique which is above all a witness to the real possibility of change. This conversion entails leaving behind the arrogance of those who want to exercise dominion over others and nature itself, reducing the latter to an object to be manipulated, and instead embracing the humility of those who care for others and for all of creation. "When human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies" (*Laudate Deum*, 73), for Adam's sin has tainted our fundamental relationships, namely with God, with ourselves, with one another and with the universe. All these relationships need to be integrally restored, saved and "put right". None of them can be overlooked, for if even one is lacking, everything else fails.

6. To hope and act with creation, then, means above all to join forces and to walk together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can help to rethink, "among other things, the question of human power, its meaning and its limits. Our power has frenetically increased in a few decades. We have made impressive and awesome technological advances, yet we have not realized that at the same time we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of

many beings and our own survival” (Laudate Deum, 28). Unchecked power creates monsters and then turns against us.

Today, then, there is an urgent need to set ethical limits on the development of artificial intelligence, since its capacity for calculation and simulation could be used for domination over humanity and nature, instead of being harnessed for the service of peace and integral development (cf. Message for the World Day of Peace 2024).

7. “The Holy Spirit accompanies us at every moment of our lives”. This was clearly understood by the boys and girls assembled in Saint Peter’s Square for the first World Day of Children, which was held on Trinity Sunday. God is not an abstract notion of infinity, but the loving Father, the Son who is the friend and redeemer of every person, and the Holy Spirit who guides our steps on the path of charity. Obedience to the Spirit of love radically changes the way we think: from “predators”, we become “tillers” of the garden. The earth is entrusted to our care, yet continues to belong to God (cf. Lev 25:23). This is the “theological anthropocentrism” that marks the JudeoChristian tradition. To claim the right to possess and dominate nature, manipulating it at will, thus represents a form of idolatry, a Promethean version of man who, intoxicated by his technocratic power, arrogantly places the earth in a “disgraced” condition, deprived of God’s grace. Indeed, if the grace of God is Jesus, who died and rose again, then the words of Benedict XVI certainly ring true: “It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love” (Spe Salvi, 26), the love of God in Christ, from which nothing and no one can ever separate us (cf. Rom 8:38-39). Creation, then, is not static or closed in on itself, but is continuously drawn towards its future. Today, thanks to the discoveries of contemporary physics, the link between matter and spirit presents itself in an ever more intriguing way to our understanding.

8. The protection of creation, then, is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently theological, for it is the point where the mystery of man and the mystery of God intersect. This intersection can be called “creative”, since it originates in the act of love by which God created human beings in Christ. That creative act of God enables and grounds the freedom and morality of all human activity. We are free precisely because we were created in the image of God who is Jesus Christ, and, as a result, are “representatives” of creation in Christ himself.

A transcendent (theological-ethical) motivation commits Christians to promoting justice and peace in the world, not least through the universal destination of goods. It is a matter of the revelation of the children of God that creation awaits, groaning as in the pangs of childbirth. At stake is not only our earthly life in history, but also, and above all, our future in eternity, the eschaton of our blessedness, the paradise of our peace, in Christ, the Lord of the cosmos, crucified and risen out of love.

9. To hope and act with creation, then, means to live an incarnational faith, one that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled “flesh” of others, by sharing in the expectation of the bodily resurrection to which believers are predestined in Christ the Lord. In Jesus, the eternal Son who took on human flesh, we are truly children of the Father. Through faith and baptism, our life in the Spirit begins (cf. Rom 8:2), a holy life, lived as children of the Father, like Jesus (cf. Rom 8:14-17),

since by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in us (cf. Gal 2:20). In this way, our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness. [3]

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 27 June 2024

FRANCIS

[1] Cf. Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024).

[2] *The Divine Comedy, Paradiso, Canto XII*, 141.

[3] The Rosminian priest Clemente Rebora expressed this poetically: “As creation ascends in Christ to the Father, all in a mysterious way become the travail of birth. How much dying is required if life is to be born! Yet from one Mother alone, who is divine, we come happily into the light. We are born to a life that love brings forth in tears. Its yearning, here below, is poetry; but holiness alone can finish the song”

(*Curriculum vitae, “Poesia e santità”*: Poesie, prose e traduzioni, Milan 2015, p. 297).

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The Diocese of Victoria is now offering our Marriage Preparation Course fully online. The cost is \$80 per couple. The course consists of several modules on relevant subjects, individual and couple activities, and assessments as well as a liturgy planning guide. Couples will be able to work through the program at their own pace. At the end of the course, you will receive a Certificate of Completion, which will be recognized by any parish within our Diocese. For more information, go to the Diocese website:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/marriage-prep> or find the course on Eventbrite. Questions? Contact Moira Gill at mjill@rcdvictoria.org or 250-470-1331 ext. 237

Did you know ...?

That the Cathedral has a Columbarium and that a location near the church for the deceased has been a powerful symbol of our faith since the early church. It is a statement of our ultimate goal to live this life in Christ so that one day, through death, we can share in eternal life with God. For information on purchasing a niche in the Cathedral Columbarium call 250-388-5571 and leave a message for Chris Ryzuk to contact you or email: niche@standrewscathedral.com

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Marian Pilgrimage – May 2025

Dear friends in Christ. Pope Francis has called for a Jubilee Year of Hope for 2025 and to celebrate, I'd like to offer a pilgrimage occasion in the Marian Month of May. Our Catholic pilgrimage coordinating agent did an inspirational job for 30 Diocesan pilgrims who joined me in the Holy Land in 2023 and has put together a wonderful 12-day itinerary. For detailed queries read the attached and if needed, contact IHS directly, but for more general questions you're welcome to be in touch with me. Blessings in the Jubilee Hope of Jesus.

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