

Our Lady of Victory Church

1607 Birch Street, Whitehorse YT, Y1A 3X1

Ph: 867-633-2647

Bishop: Most Reverend Héctor Vila, DD; **Pastor:** Fr. Marc Lalonde

Reconciliation: 30 minutes before Mass.

Mass Times: 1st Mass of Sunday: Saturday, 7.00 pm. Sunday, 10.00 am. Weekdays Mon & Fri, 6.00 pm
Monday: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena, & Rosary, after Mass

Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross 5.15 pm; Mass 6.00 pm.

Wednesday, March 25, The Annunciation of the Lord Mass 6.30 pm Solemnity

Our Lady of Victory parish is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse, Canada

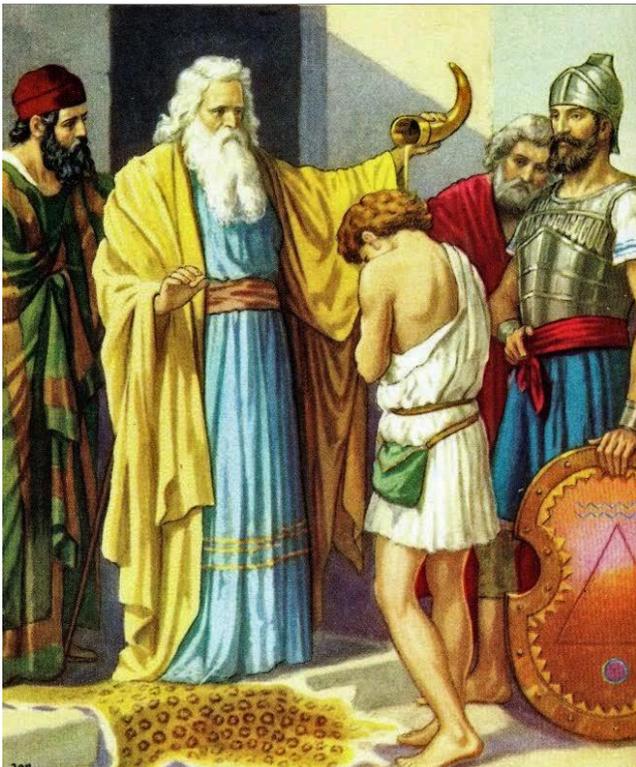
Coronavirus, Covid 19: Update for our diocese and Whitehorse parishes

Information on our diocesan web site was current as of 5.00 pm Friday 20th and unchanged Sat morning but because of uncertainty in these fluid times, please check information regularly at <http://www.whitehorsediocese.ca/> <http://www.sacredheartcathedral.ca/> and <https://yukon.ca/> for any new information.

Sacred Heart Cathedral will also be live-streaming the Saturday evening Masses on the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse Facebook Page](#) for viewing throughout the weekend.

March 22 2020: 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday

Laetare, Ierusalem: be joyful Jerusalem and all who love her!



David Anointed

Source: Wikimedia. **Artist:** Unknown - pre 1923 Bible card

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 16.13

Fr. Roger Karban's essay for March 22, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Lent

[1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41](#)

(Originally published 2017)

One really must know the background of today's 1 Samuel reading to appreciate what the sacred author is trying to tell us.

This event takes place in the late 11th century BCE while Saul, a rather unstable king, is on the Jewish throne. When Samuel, the last of the judges, complains to Yahweh about the situation, Yahweh tells him to commit high treason: to anoint another king — one of Jesse's sons. Samuel wisely camouflages his visit to Bethlehem by announcing he's going to conduct a communion sacrifice at Jesse's house, not anoint a new king. That's where today's narrative kicks in.

One of the reasons Samuel originally anointed Saul as Israel's first king was because he “stood head and shoulders” above all the country's warriors. As the late Frank Cleary once observed, “He could knock heads better than anyone else.” So we presume Samuel is simply looking to replace Saul with another — more stable - head-knocker.

When none of Jesse's seven sons proves to be the king Yahweh wants, Samuel bribes the protesting father to bring in the runt of the litter who's out watching the family flock: “We will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.” Hearing peoples' stomachs growling, Jesse has no choice. When David finally comes into the house and is anointed, we find the truth in Yahweh's remark, “Not as humans see does God see, because humans see the appearance, but Yahweh looks into the heart.”

The sacred author is telling us not to trust our eyes. We only see correctly what God's Spirit leads us to see; a Spirit which always expects us to go deeper than appearances.

That seems to be why the Pauline disciple responsible for the letter to the Ephesians creates a powerful contrast between light and darkness. “You were once in darkness,” he reminds his community, “but now you are light in the Lord.” Then quoting from what seems to have been an early Christian baptismal hymn, he pens the memorable words, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” Only through the risen Jesus' Spirit are we able to see what others never seem to notice.

This is the same theme behind John's well-known narrative of the blind beggar. Unlike the Jesus we find in the Synoptics, John's Jesus doesn't demand faith as a condition for working miracles. For the fourth evangelist, faith only comes after the miracle, not before. In this case his blind beggar doesn't ask Jesus for sight. He simply rubs mud in his eyes, tells him to wash it out, and suddenly the man sees. At that point he also begins to see Jesus with the light of faith — gradually.

When he initially talks to his neighbors and friends about his unexpected sight, he simply refers to his benefactor as “the man called Jesus.” Later, when Jewish leaders interrogate him about the event, he dares go one step further: “He is a *prophet*,” he proclaims. Finally, toward the end of the pericope, “he *worshiped* him.” His new-found sight eventually enables him to see this Galilean carpenter as God.

No one who's heard the entire chapter can miss the meaning in Jesus' final condemnation of the Pharisees: “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.”

We really have to be careful when we claim we can see what the risen Jesus wants us to do in our everyday lives. Not only were Samuel and the blind beggar expected to look at people and situations with new eyes, so are we. It always takes ever-new, Spirit-filled eyes to actually “learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”

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In one of his Lenten sermons, St Augustine extolled the importance of frugality. To avoid food all day and then eat a plate of delicacies is not fasting; eat in moderation, he said, but when you do eat make sure it is “ordinary” food “readily to hand”.

Msgr. Joe's Homily for Fourth Sunday of Lent: Light in Darkness (Taking into account suspensions of public Masses due to the Corona Virus)

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." I'm sure you recognize these lines as what many consider the greatest opening lines in any novel written in the English language. They are, of course, the first lines of Charles Dickens' Masterpiece, *A Tale of Two Cities*. The novel contrasted the insanity of the reign of Terror following the French Revolution with the magnanimity of those who reached out beyond their own concerns to care and love for others.

Well, we are not living in a Dickens novel now, but in many ways we are living in the best of times and worst of times. The corona virus has disrupted life as we know it. Now, during the holiest time of the year, people are unable to go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. Babies cannot be baptized unless there is a dire emergency. Confirmation has been postponed to an unknown time. Funerals and Weddings can only be celebrated with the immediate family present. I, and you, never fathomed that this could ever happen. Schools have been suspended, and most of the daily joys of life outside our homes have been cancelled, including anything to do with sports. We watch the news with dread that the virus has taken loved ones from our families or communities.

With all this said, this is also the best of times. More than ever, people are turning to God, praying for protection. All the restrictions placed on public religious gatherings are only to protect people, particularly the vulnerable, from being exposed to the virus. All of us willingly sacrifice up our own desires for the safety of others. People are looking for those who need help, shopping for the elderly, calling those on self quarantine to let them know they are not alone. There is a great deal of love going on, right now. In many ways, these difficult times have brought out so much good in people that they can also be seen as the best of times.

The people who heard or read the beautiful ninth chapter of the *Gospel of John*, today's long Gospel of the Man Born Blind, knew that they were also experiencing the best of times and the worst of times. The *Gospel of John* was not completed until the end of the first century. By then, Peter and Paul, all of the other apostles, perhaps with the exception of John himself, had all been killed, some like Barthemew tortured to death. Even the pagan historian Tacitus wrote that the Christians persecuted under Nero suffered so horribly that many Romans felt a deep compassion for them. And yet, through all the terrors the people who read John had experienced or expected, there was a deep joy that though they were following Christ to death they were also joining him in eternal life. Christians supported each other, cared for each other, and, above all, held onto their faith that, as the Gospel concludes in *John 20:31* "these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." It was the worst of times, yet it was the best of times.

The subject of the today's drama, the Man Born Blind, had experienced the worst of times and was continuing to experience them. He had been born blind. He had never seen his mother and father. There was nothing for him to do in the world except beg, which he did every day by the Pool of Siloam.

Perhaps, his parents brought him there everyday with the hope that he might make a little to help pay their bills. Or maybe his parents had put him out of the house once he reached a certain age. Jesus healed the man. He gave him sight. Now the man was attacked by the Pharisees for daring to say that this Jesus was a prophet. He was thrown out of the Temple, shunned by society. The man didn't need the Temple any more. Nor did he need society. He had Jesus. As the drama progresses, he grows in faith until at the end he worships Jesus.

Throughout our lives we all struggle through times of darkness, grasping for light. When will the darkness of this time of pandemic be over? When will we see the light at the end of the tunnel? Well, we don't know yet when this will come to an end. But we do know this, we can already see the light. Or perhaps we are caring for a loved one who is lingering on in a slow death. Or maybe we are going from one crisis to another and wondering if we will ever see light again. We will. We will because the light is there for us. That light is the light of the Lord. A few verses before today's Gospel, in *John 8:12* Jesus called out: "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Jesus is not just setting the scene for the drama of the Man Born Blind. He is speaking directly to us, to you and to me. He is telling us to put our trust in Him, to rest in him, and to know that no matter what happens in this world, good or bad, positive or negative, we will always enjoy the Light of Life.

We pray today for all who are suffering the effects of the coronavirus, physical effects, economic effects, whatever. We pray that they and all of us can recognize that Jesus provides us with the Light to guide us through the worst of times to the best of times.

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"Walk the dark ways of faith and you will attain the vision of faith." ...St Augustine.

Lockdown - A Song for our Time

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death.
But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Br. Richard Hendrick, OFM Cap, March 13th 2020; a priest-friar of the Irish branch of the Capuchin Franciscan Order.
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Sudan's 'Field Hospital' Church: The Story of Alfons ter Beke MHM in Juba 4/7

During my first visit and also subsequently I see Alfons busying himself. With rapidly mounting admiration. Missionary, development agent, social worker. And, perhaps most importantly, a source of hope. Every sweating minute of those long working days. Making basic choices every day: "My parish in the Netherlands sent me money to build a school. I bought food for it, to keep the children alive, otherwise you will have a nice building, but empty classrooms."

That's the question here: baptise? Or use the water for drinking.

Hunger, a war zone. People in rags, a boy with a T-shirt and the text 'Get rich or die trying'. Comes from a container with disposable Western European goodies. Later, in the middle of the South Sudanese bush, I will come across a lady with the inscription 'Papa is a Smasher' on her bosom.

South Sudan, Alfons ter Beke, two years later I am back. Unannounced, because letters take months if they arrive at all. Back to Juba, why? Attracted by the Apocalypse? I see exhausted children, skeletons with skin, mouths that eat leaves, pure panic in the eyes, demolition, destruction, blackened remnants where once there were huts. Or as someone there says: "A wind full of fire has blown us away from home."

In the evening, sipping a lukewarm beer, I sometimes grumble at the Lord of Alfons, who seems to have taken holiday here for a very long time. "You know," Alfons says, "I have the feeling that our presence here gives people courage, a bit of perspective. Courage out of hope. Let sparks jump. This assumes that you have hope itself and radiate courage simply by sharing their fate here. I would love to do more ..."

Courage is often a dosed product. Where does Alfons get the courage? He tells me how he is active in a local prison. "You don't have time, but you should come along some time. It is a wonderful job. The people who live there are nice. They are all thieves, but you have to assume that they steal out of pure need. He who steals in this country is always wrong, because he steals from the rich. Defense, lawyer? Forget it! The owner is always right."

"In prison there are also psychiatric patients chained to the wall, like animals." He is sometimes present when corporal punishment is meted out, prescribed by the Islamic law-based legislation: "If you see someone being flogged for the first time, you wince. As a Westerner you want to call 'stop'. That is not possible, so you tolerate it." He talks about cross-amputation for more serious offences: left hand and right foot off. The prison also has a cell block for those sentenced to death. Alfons accompanies them to the gallows.

The next morning someone brings the news that four people have been shot near the Nile. Yakil, the goat herder, saw shadows cross the Nile in a canoe. He heard the clatter of hooves, saw silhouettes of goats pulling away from the bank. There was a shot and Yakil was dead. The police responding to the alarm then shot three more livestock thieves. This is Sudan. "Maalesh" as they say here: "That's how it is".

Paul de Schipper

The Pope's Prayer Intention for March 2020: Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity. *Today, the Church in China looks to the future with hope. The Church wants Chinese Christians to be truly Christians, and to be good citizens. They should promote the Gospel, but without engaging in proselytism, and they need to achieve the unity of the divided Catholic community. Let us pray together that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity. Thank you.*

Rachel's Corner

"After the retreat I looked in my heart for the anxiety and pain... and they were gone! Thanks be to God! They are gone. I couldn't believe I knew how to live without anxiety and pain. And I am alive! Very much alive!"

Retreat Testimonial

Would you like to feel alive again? Come on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat and let Him show you how much He wants to free you from what burdens you inside

info@rachelvineyardkelowna.com 250-762-2273 and rvwhitehorse@gmail.com

Local News

Your Prayers are asked for: the health of **Gerry Whitley, Anglican Archbishop Terry Buckle, Darryl and Jessica Sheppard of Ontario** (former tenants of OLV rectory, recently in an auto accident.) All who are ill; the repose of the souls of those departed and that their families may find peace.

OLV: Monday Mass/Novena 6.00 pm and **Stations of the Cross** Fridays, 5.15 pm, followed by Mass, 6.00 pm are expected to be as usual next week. Also, there will be **Mass Wednesday 25th 6.30 pm**
Wednesday, March 25, The Annunciation of the Lord: Mass 6.30 pm Solemnity

Holy Week at our Lady of Victory

Palm Sunday, April 5. 7.00 pm Saturday 4th and 10.00 am Sunday.
Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7.00 pm.
Good Friday April 10, 3.00 pm
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 11, 8.00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 12, 10.00 am

We need seven readers for the Easter Vigil, if you do not shortly receive an e-mail request and are interested in reading, please contact Pat. We are also seeking those willing to participate in the washing of feet on Holy Thursday.

- **New:** Please note that despite any restrictions, Fr Marc will still be available for home visits and end of life calls when needed.
- **New:** If you need help during this time of self isolation, such as grocery shopping, shoveling snow or other chores I'm willing to help if I am able. Please call Stella Martin at 668-4629 or 335-4629.
- **New: OLV Food Bank Outreach:** Food Bank, at present, is still accepting donations but call first. They also will have new distribution guidelines from Monday 23. As a preventive measure, OLV is temporarily suspending donations. Selection for March is **Mac/Cheese or any pasta**, you may still leave anything you have already purchased in the church crate but perhaps hold off on purchasing more (if you can find it.) Our program will resume when we are more aware of how Covid19 may affect us locally.
- **New: Offertory Donations:** We don't want to inconvenience anyone but well used bank notes have been shown to be a source of infection and you may have noticed that local businesses are now not accepting cash payments, only cards. As infection prevention in this time of uncertainty, it would help those who count OLV offertory if you would consider donating monthly and by cheque instead of cash.
- **Cat Chat Vacation Bible School** will take place again this summer! Children mark your calendars the dates are June 15-19, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Our theme will be **Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer, with Amazing Angels and Super Saints**. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Andrea at 668-2768.
- **Whitehorse Right to Life:** The [40 Days for Life](#) prayer campaign is happening from **February 26th to April 5th, 2020** (Lenten season). You can check out the Daily Devotionals [here](#), and here is a [40 Days for Life promotional video](#) which includes the history of this campaign (USA - 6min30sec)
- **Braeburn Camp:** Now accepting applications for volunteers and for the 6 paid staff positions of: Director, Assistant Director and 2 male and 2 female councillors. Councillors should be 16 years. For expedient reply please send resumes and cover letters to: stellamartin1981@hotmail.com Call 335-4629 for questions. Now accepting registration for the 2020 camping season. Register early as spots fill fast! Go to: <http://braeburncamp.ca/> for job descriptions and camp registration forms.

- **Taize** at Whitehorse United Church, March 15 @ 7.30 pm. Next date Apr 19. www.taize.fr.
- A big **Thank You** to those who clean our church. **Thank you to all who wipe their feet in the porch.** The church is cleaned by a volunteer so while it doesn't take you long to wipe your footwear on the porch carpet and use the broom to brush off snow, it takes longer to remove dirt from the floor. We also often have salt on the concrete for your safety but if it is not removed from the soles of your shoes/boots, it can damage the church carpet and it will pit our newly waxed floor that recently cost OLV \$700. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.
- Fr. Marc will now be available @ OLV on Mondays 10-12 noon, 4-6 pm, & 7-8 pm; on Fridays 4-6 pm. At other times he can be reached by telephone at 633-2647 as it is automatically forwarded to his cell.
- Please be considerate of others and park as close together as possible. Leaving an unnecessary $\frac{3}{4}$ of a vehicle space between vehicles means 3 vehicles take up 5 spaces so, some have a long snowy walk. **Also please leave the parking spots closest to church for the elderly and those with disabilities.**
- **Pastoral Care of the Sick:** If you are hospitalized, please be sure to identify yourself as Catholic when being admitted. Family members are also asked to notify the clergy of shut-ins, hospitalized parishioners and those entering Continuing Care who would like Fr. Marc to visit.
- **First Confession, First Communion, Baptism** and other **Sacramental Preparation**, please see recent guidelines on <http://www.whitehorsediocese.ca/> or contact Fr. Marc.

