

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

Associate Pastor: Padre Ain Leetma 867-336-0527. Reconciliation: 30 minutes before Mass.

Mass Times: 1st Mass of Sunday: Saturday @ 7.00 pm. Sunday @ 10.15 am. Monday – Friday @ 6.00 pm

Monday: Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Rosary, and Adoration; after Mass

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

OLOV Parish Council:

Chair: Joe Hanrath, **Secretary:** Carol Vanderbyl, **Treasurer:** vacant,

Council Members: Frank Hanrath, Pat Banks.

Meetings will usually be 2nd Thursday @ 6.45 pm. Next meeting: **June 14**

Finance Committee: Fr. Marc Lalonde, Pat Banks, Brian McGovern, vacant;

Music: Theresa Han, Pauline Paton, Kristie Canary; **Liturgy:** Pat Banks; **Food Bank:** Kristie Canary

May 13, 2018: The Ascension of the Lord



***So then the Lord Jesus,
after he had spoken to them,
was taken up into heaven
and sat down at the right
hand of God.***

Mark 16:19

The Ascension by Gustave Dore

Fr. Karban's' Essay for The Ascension of Jesus

[Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20](#)

It's far easier simply to say, "Jesus has risen!" than to reflect on the implications of his resurrection. The fact we have four – sometimes contradictory - gospel narratives of the discovery of his empty tomb prove that point. Because of our evangelists' Semitic both/and thought process, each offers us a different dimension and different consequences of that event. Our problem is that we've squeezed these diverse gospel narratives into chronological liturgical readings. That means, because of our Greek either/or thought process, we've "canonized" one of these theologies and left the others behind. We, for instance, overlook that fact there's no definitive ascension of Jesus in either Mark, Matthew, or John. Since we've inserted Luke's ascension theology into our liturgical year, we not only presume that's all there is, we rarely notice the implications Luke's trying to convey in expressing his theology in his unique way.

Among other things, Luke is convinced, in the absence of the historical Jesus, that the Holy Spirit is the force guiding the Christian community. His Jesus couldn't be clearer. Just before he ascends he tells his disciples to expect Pentecost. "In a few days," he says, "you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." In other words, "The Spirit will shortly take my place."

We who faithfully depend on the institutional church to tell us what God wants us to do, have little space for that Spirit in our religious experiences. Growing up Catholic, about the only time we were expected to pray to the Holy Spirit was immediately before we took our school exams. Hopefully the Spirit would remind us what our teachers had taught on various subjects, not enlighten us on what the risen Jesus was telling us to do in our daily lives.

The Pauline disciple who wrote the letter to the Ephesians poetically speaks about the risen Jesus "seated at (God's) right hand in the heavens." Yet he also reminds his readers about the "Spirit of wisdom and revelation" which we received when we first experienced God in our lives. No way we can be other Christs without constantly falling back on that Spirit, whether the risen Jesus is relaxing triumphant in heaven or actively working among us here on earth.

It's important to know that today's gospel pericope was not originally part of Mark's gospel. Even the bishops at the Council of Trent (1545) agreed someone had tacked verses 9-20 onto Mark's gospel long after the evangelist completed it. (By the way, there are Marcan manuscripts with at least two other non-original endings. Most probably the gospel simply ended with verse 8, as disturbing as that is.)

Since Jesus' followers didn't seem to have regarded the Christian Scriptures as divinely inspired until the latter part of the third century, people could "mess around" with those writings and not worry about divine retribution. Mark's original abrupt ending to his gospel – the risen Jesus is simply "out there somewhere" - seems to have provided a made to order invitation to those who had problems with the different theologies in other writings. Someone eventually strung those passages together in a way that "made sense;" one that fit their either/or Greek mentality.

It doesn't do much harm to read today's addition (except for those churches whose worship services revolve around handling poisonous snakes.) But these verses should be a reminder that our faith originally wasn't a matter of either/or. If we celebrate today's feast knowing Jesus' ascension was one among several ways to surface the implications of Jesus' resurrection, we're correctly looking at this celebration from a biblical point of view. If, on the other hand, we think our liturgical chronology accurately conveys historical chronology, we'd best sign up for a course in Scripture 101 as soon as possible.

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Michel DeVerteuil - *Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospels*

General Textual Comments

At the beginning of today's passage, we are reminded that these words were once spoken by Jesus himself to some disciples who were facing a difficult time. They felt very disorganized and lost; here now was Jesus standing before them and giving them a way to go forward. He continues to do this for us today through different "messengers" whom God sends to us. We must be aware of them and thank God for them. Jesus makes a first crucial statement to his followers: they are to "go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation". We think today of many parts of creation where the gospel of Jesus has not yet been preached.

We think of signs in the modern world which we can associate with true believers:

– *"In my name they will cast out devils."* Many people in our modern world think that no one cares for them, not even God. True believers, however, speak in words which convey that gifts like true selflessness can bring help for all.

– *"They will have the gift of tongues."* There are people in the world today who cannot speak in new languages; they use words that cannot touch unyielding hearts. True believers however will be able to communicate their message of love to all they meet, no matter what their original circumstances were.

– There are people who can act out their role as evangelisers, even in what seems to the rest of us as very difficult circumstances. They venture into difficult worlds. They work in difficult surroundings, among prostitutes, drug addicts and other outcasts of society. They can "pick up snakes in their hands and be untouched by them". We can say about them that, "they will remain unharmed even when they drink deadly poison."

– Finally, Jesus tells us that *"true believers" can "lay their hands on the sick who will recover."* There are people who can lay their hands on those who are sick and see them recover before their very eyes. It is truly a wonderful experience of God's salvation and "true believers" can feel it happening.

The passage concludes with a beautiful saying about the Lord Jesus. It is said of him that *"he was taken up to heaven"* and that *"at the right hand of God, he took his place."* We who believe can now think of the Lord Jesus sitting at the right hand of God. We are in this world surrounded by all our difficulties and yet we feel great trust in the Lord.

"They, going out, preached everywhere" and the *"Lord is working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it."* As believers, we know well that the Lord is with us. He is confirming what we say by the signs he has sent to accompany us, and the great miracles he achieves through us.

Donal Neary SJ - *Gospel Reflections: Going Out or Going Up?*

The feast of the Ascension seems to be more about the apostles going out than Jesus going up! As Jesus goes to his Father, the message is for us now, and to be witnesses to him, sharing what we have received, and heard.

Witnesses to a road accident can often contradict each other. They get mixed up in what they saw or heard. Or they may have only glanced at the event and moved on. We can be witnesses of Jesus who stayed with the event, not just with a glance. We have seen and heard the best story ever told, and the most influential life ever lived.

We witness to Jesus in prayer, in reading the gospel and in service of others in love. Prayer means being in touch with God who is reaching out to us. The gospel is what feeds us, a daily opening to the words and deeds of Jesus. Loving service brings us to witness the care of God as we give and receive care.

This is what we give to the ascended Lord and receive from him. The word of God is the divine word in human words. In our work for him, God is linking heaven and earth, and we are sharers in his divinity as he is in our humanity. Far from being the absence of Jesus, the Ascension is his presence in a new way among us.

Looking up is a religious gesture.

Look up to the skies sometimes this week and make a favourite prayer.

Lord, may your kingdom come!

From CCCB: **National Week for Life and the Family (May 13-20)** – This year, in the Church in Canada, the Week will focus on the theme: “**Love: Encountering the Other**”. For more information about events related to the week, see: (<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/4814-2018-national-week-for-life-and-the-family>)

“Love: Encountering the Other” – According to the divine plan for humanity, the family is the sacred place where, through loving encounters with *others*—parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles—the child makes room in his or her heart for an encounter with *the Other* who is Love (see *1 Jn* 4:8). The time has come to ask ourselves what role we can play in creating a world where others are encountered as God intends: as His beloved children. As Pope Francis observes in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, 31: “The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church.” Let us allow ourselves to be empowered by Christ and moved by his Spirit; then—beginning with the members of our own families—let us encounter each other with love! Please visit (<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/4814-2018-national-week-for-life-and-the-family>)

Local News

Diocese of Whitehorse 50th Anniversary Closing Celebrations

Please join us on **May 26th & 27th, 2018** in Whitehorse - Our Lady of Victory Parish in Porter Creek will be hosting a Marian Procession, an open-air Mass, and potluck social on Saturday evening. Sacred Heart Cathedral will be celebrating a special bilingual Mass at 11:30am on Sunday, followed by an outdoor picnic. More details to follow in the next bulletin, and at whitehorsediocese.ca or SH parish website at sacredheartcathedral.ca.

Diocesan Jubilee Closing Community Potluck

Our Lady of Victory Parish is hosting a community potluck as part of the closing year of the Whitehorse Diocese Jubilee on May 26th, 2018.

The potluck will follow the Mass at Our Lady of Victory (which follows the Rosary Procession at 5:00pm). If you wish to contribute a dish to the potluck it would be appreciated.

The contact for compiling the list of food dishes for the potluck is Lidwien Hanrath, ghanrath@hotmail.com or 867-334-5852

Please don't forget to submit your ballot and any thoughts you may have:

On April 23rd members of the **French community of Sacred Heart** and members of **Our Lady of Victory** parish came together to discuss a request from the French community if they could move to Our Lady of Victory and become part of our parish. This would mean that we would become **one parish with one parish council** with members of both communities and we would accommodate two masses on Sunday one French and one English.

Both communities are now going back to their respective members. We want to know what you think and if you want us to go ahead with this venture. In order for us to take the next step we need the following questions answered:

1. Do you want us to pursue this?
2. If you do, we are looking for input from both groups regarding the start of each mass to be able to accommodate both a French and English mass.
3. The start of each mass would be an hour and a half apart so people are not rushed out to accommodate the second mass.
4. Ballots will be available in church as well.

9am and 10:30

9:15am and 10:45

9:30am and 11

Please tell us what you think.

Joe Hanrath, Parish Council Chair OLV. Eliane Cloutier, Parish Council Chair French community

- During the month of May, we will pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Litany of Loreto) after each mass.
The Litany of The Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Litany of Loreto, is a popular prayer of supplication, once prayed in processions to atone for sins and to prevent calamities
- From CEAY: **THANK YOU** to all the candidates who ran in the school council elections at the Catholic schools. And thank you to the electors who came to the polls. The Catholic Education Association of Yukon (CEAY) appreciates your commitment. Elected for **Vanier School Council**: Wanda Robbins, Truska Gorrell, Philip Gibson, Charlene Shehnaz Ali, Cynthia Lyslo. Elected for **Christ the King School Council**: Kathleen Coventry, Andrea Lefebvre, Gina Macleod, Melissa Yu Schott, Shanna Epp. Acclaimed for **Holy Family School Council**: John Williams, Tammy Sehn, Erin Spiewak, Mary Ellen O'Brien, Amy Fry.
- **Join the global wave of prayer** 10th - 20th May 2018 (only Prayer Events listed in Canada are in Maple Ridge, B.C. & Thunder Bay, Ont. pb)
Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>
- **Now Hiring Staff for Braeburn Camp. The approximate period is June 25 to July 31, 2018**
Two male/two female councillors (16 years min) \$1250 - Deadline May 31, 2018
Resumes to: stellamartin1981@hotmail.com – info 668-4629 or 335-4629
- **Multicultural Centre** offers services for: applying for work permits & passports, writing resumes, preparing for interviews, learning computer skills, studying for citizenship and driver's licence, plus ESL tutoring for children of all ages. More info from: 667 6205 or info@mcyukon.com
- **YDisciple**: if you are in high school and you would like to join, for info or to register by sending your name, what grade you are in, and phone number to Raquel and JD at ydisciple.whitehorse@gmail.com
- **Hospital and Care Home visits by clergy**: If you are hospitalised or a resident in a care home and would like a visit from a member of the clergy please notify a member of the clergy yourself or make sure a family member knows to do this in an emergency. **Do not expect staff to automatically notify clergy.**
- **Safe Environments and Abuse Prevention**: For info, RCMP letter and forms please contact Yolande at the chancery: executiveassistant@whitehorsediocese.ca
- **Compassionate Community Care**: Euthanasia Prevention Coalition help line for anyone who is contemplating euthanasia or assisted suicide, or those concerned about others. Call:1-855-675 –8749
- **Baptismal Preparation Classes**: For more information please visit: www.sacredheartcathedral.ca
- **Knights of Columbus**: meetings are 7.00 pm, 2nd Wed CYO Hall. Contact Joe Hanrath, 335-9819.
- **Catholic Women's League**: meetings 7.00 pm, 2nd Tues, CYO Hall. Contact Carol Vanderbyl, 633-5348.
- **Cat Chat Vacation Bible School** will run the week of **June 18-22**, mornings. The theme this year is "Cathletics," applying the beatitudes to daily life. For children from 4-12 years old. Forms are available at the back of the church, on SH website, or contact kate.d.williams30@gmail.com. We are also seeking adult and teen leaders who can share their talents and time! From setting up, (co)leading groups, and cleaning up- many hands make light work and much more fun! Call Katherine @ 332-8669 or Andrea @ 668-2768.

Happy Mother's Day



Upcoming Garage Sales for Worthy Causes:

(sort your stuff and take more stuff home)



WUC 6th Annual Gala Garage Sale - raising funds to support Yukon's Little Footprints Big Steps Child Protection Organization's Education programs in Haiti: **May 12 & 13th. Whitehorse Elem School gym.**

Whitehorse Legion: Annual Spring Garage Sale - 14 Willow Crescent, **May 12 & 13**

Knights of Columbus Annual Charity Yard Sale - SH Cathedral Parking Lot **Sat. May 26, 8:00 am-12:00pm.** Contact: John Robbins (668-7049) or Vic Sokalski (633-5576)

WUC Garage Sale: June 2nd, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm @ Lewis Hall

