

Corpus Christi Parish  
PHONE: (250) 765-6869  
E-mail: [corpuschristikelowna@shaw.ca](mailto:corpuschristikelowna@shaw.ca)  
[www.corpuschristikelowna.com](http://www.corpuschristikelowna.com)  
May 28, 2020

Dear Parishioners;

So as of the writing of this letter, there is still no definite word when we will be back at church. I do want to say how much of a help Kate has been through out this trying time. Kate hasn't missed a day of work. If anything, she has gone above and beyond in the service of the parish. And it is to our great benefit that she can't stand a mess. Kate has been, and will be, a big part of our keeping our parish clean and safe as possible.

This week I was busy cutting and tying ropes in order to block off every other pew so that when we get back to church, we will be able to do so while Social Distancing.

It reminded me of my first job I had after I arrived in British Columbia which was in a machine shop in Nakusp, making choker cables for the logging industry. It was what they call "piecework", which means that I got paid for what I produced and not by the hour.

It was while working in that machine shop that I first had the thought that maybe I should be a priest. I remember that day very clearly. I was pulling off some of what they call "wire rope" to make the chokers and it hit me, that someone has to go.

Now I know that that is not as profound an experience as when St. Paul was knocked blind and off his horse. But it was a moment of understanding that God does want priests and that I should at least be open to the question.

Instead of saying “No” to a vocation to the priesthood, I had to be honest and say; “I don’t know”, and that I better be sure. And that is when you want to start having an honest relationship with the Holy Spirit, so that we let the Holy Spirit do the Spirit’s job.

I always had this sense that there was something that I had to do. It wasn’t that this something was so important, it was that there was a path for my life and whenever an opportunity came my way, I was able to test that opportunity up against this sense.

I look at it this way, that if God wants you to be a priest, then the easiest thing that you can do in life is to be a priest. It is the same with being married or being single or being a parent. If that is what God wants you to be, then the easiest path you could ever find is the one that you are called to be on. Even if right about now, you have about had it with the people in your bubble.

So you learned two very important things about me; one, there was a time when I actually worked for a living. And two, I didn’t like it very much so I became a priest.

OK, so about getting back to church, I read a statistic about who gets the Coronavirus and who passes it on, and the older we get the worse it gets.

The first thing you need to know is that when we are back at church, Mass Attendance will be limited to 50 people and that the Dispensation from the Obligation of attending Sunday mass will remain in place.

Which means that for any reason, if you feel that you should continue to worship from home, then you should feel free to do so. And if you are a senior, you need to seriously consider staying home for

the time being, at least until we figure out how to do church while managing Social Distancing.

And if you have a COLD OF ANY KIND, then you are absolutely to stay home until you are symptom free. And I know that it is allergy season and you may be sneezing because of the pollen, but nobody else is going to know that.

So if you can't control your bodily fluids, you need to stay home too. Because we all know that a person can have the virus without showing symptoms, a person who is sneezing at regular intervals is sending out whatever they have, and so for the sake of the rest of us, please stay home until it passes.

For those of you who feel able to return to mass, you'll be happy to know that the priests have been instructed to keep the services as short as possible including reduced time for the sermon. Singing is also discouraged because it means deep breaths and projecting your voice, and we can't have hymnals anyway because we can't keep them clean.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday and this really is a time for the Holy Spirit. We all have to discern what is best for us and what is best for each other. We all need faith, wisdom and right judgement. It isn't a time to ask; "What do I want to do?" It is a time for us to ask; "What is the right thing for me to do for myself and for the community?"

Wherever we are this weekend, we need to pray for each other. We are all wearing a little thin so we should pray for our collective Mental Health. And we should remember those who had Mental Health issue before the virus hit. Having a strong social network is important for our health, and so it is not surprising that we find ourselves out of sorts more now than before.

I also want you to keep in your prayers all of the parents who are

having to consider sending their kids back to school or not. It can't be an easy decision to make. And I think that we should also remember our educators, Catholic or otherwise.

Teachers are having to learn new skill sets on the fly, while trying to motivate their students from a distance. And they may have their own health issues to consider as they are being asked to open themselves up to a considerable number of other people's bubbles. Not to mention the barbers and tattoo artists and dentists and everyone else who is considering opening up. It seems to me that our prayer plates are bigger than they have ever been before.

The following is a prayer asking for the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and I think we could all use a little consolation from the Spirit right about now.

*Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity.*

*Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love.*

*Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another.*

*May we respect especially those most vulnerable, as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology.*

*Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence, which penetrates all creation. Amen.*

May God be gracious to us and bless us, now and forever.

Pat Monette  
Pastor