

Coop's Scoops # 208 Wednesday, June 02, 2021

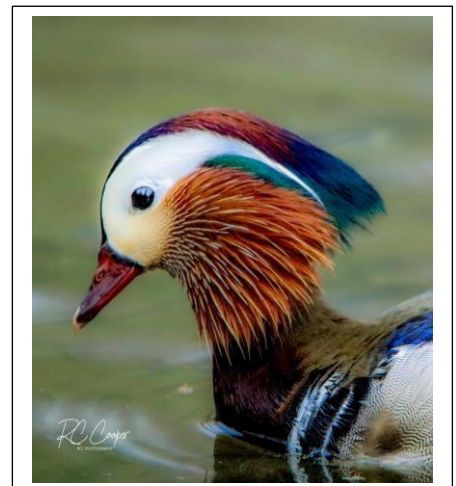


We begin today by acknowledging the deep pain and distress once again being endured by our indigenous neighbours over the finding of 215 graves, believed to be those of children attending the Kamloops Residential School. We walk beside them, and we grieve deeply as well, but those of us who are not indigenous cannot fully comprehend or share their sorrow or their anger. The truth about these graves needs to be determined in whatever forensic, record keeping or

family reports ways may be available.... **PLEASE JOIN TODAY** in a service being live-streamed from St. Luke's Cathedral in which much respected Ojibway elder Willard Pine will provide a smudge ceremony over the little pairs of shoes that have been accumulating on the steps of the Cathedral. The service will be posted at 4pm. Archbishop +Anne Germond and Dean Jim McShane will also be participating. Please pray, and please learn what can be learned and please take part in whatever actions may develop to bring forward justice, truth and reconciliation.

Breaking hearts can always use some silliness, I think!

We will receive further instruction about the possibility of small in –person worship services from the Diocese on July 4th. It is indeed possible that other wonderful things – like HAIRCUTS- will also be available on July 14th! Now the rest of this is the tongue-in-cheek stuff from my life that I usually open Scoops with, so there won't be any clear new guidelines. Just this.....I AM SO JEALOUS OF THE DUCK in this picture. If ever a





haircut deserved a head shot, it is his! Never have I seen such layering and sculpting and dying/blending of colours. Apparently the salon is in OKA Park, Quebec, as that is where my son Ryan took this picture. Absolutely amazing. I, on the other hand, look exactly like a woman who has not had a trim since last September would look.....sigh. There are three things that most parishioners I see outside tell me: 1/ I WANT a haircut 2/ When will we be able to have communion again? 3/ I feel so blessed to live here and I pray for the suffering of the whole world which is far greater than mine.

I also look like a woman who lost the battle with the black flies on my last hike down Fraserburg Road. You will notice not only the fly away awful haircut, but also the black eye. Apparently, I am delicious!

I was going to buy a bug net for under my hat at Canadian Tire, but couldn't find it on line and decided to wait until **curb side pick up only** is over. Maybe by that time, the black flies will also be over, but I'll be just in time for mosquitos!

Some fun from the Parish:

From **Jeannie Goddard:**

Son: Dad, did you go to church every Sunday when you were a boy?

Dad: Sure did, son, sometimes twice on Sunday and Wednesday night too!

Son: I don't expect it will do me any good either!!!

From **Alva:** **Wisdom**

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time. So she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site. She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

"Pardon me, sir, I'm Rebecca Smith from CNN. What's your name?"

"Morris Feinberg," he replied.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews, and the Muslims."

"I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop."

"I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults and to love their fellow man."

"I pray politicians tell us the truth and put the interests of the people ahead of their own interests."

And finally, "I pray everyone will be happy."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a brick wall!"

(Even God would smile at this one, I think.....I hope!....or
oops!)

From Cathy Taylor:



Just to make you smile, here's a picture of the newest calf in Rick and Cathy's pasture. I suggested the name "Silken" 'cause she looks so soft and shiny and cuddly.

We think that's her mom's nose and ear on the right side.

Every birth is such a wonderful thing! (Well, maybe not mosquitos, although perhaps their moms are proud!)

Scripture for Today... Psalm 27: 4,5; 13,14

**One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.**

**⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.**

**¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.**

**¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

I had an hour's visit outside today with my son , photographer supreme, as with the "head shot" mandarin duck. He lives in St. Eustache, Quebec but passes through Muskoka when he can. He was telling me that many many people

“hurt” when they hear what to many of us sounds like a good message

“We’re All in this Together” is like a stab to him. He pointed out that in fact, we are not all EXPERIENCING the same things, and therefore are not really together after all. I experience the risk of Covid infection but enormously less than those having to go to work in manufacturing, construction, food processing, hospitals....the list of essential workers goes on and on... they face a much higher risk than me, a woman privileged to be able to work virtually alone, in a safe place, and collect a paycheque just like usual. I experience the loss of the ability to go shopping, and enjoy some “retail therapy” (doesn’t really work, does it?) but there are literally thousands of people not able to work in our retail shops, our restaurants, our gyms, our sports arena ticket takers and hot dog vendors. For them shops being closed is not an inconvenience, it means that they cannot make their livelihood. It means living below the poverty level if all they receive is the \$2000 covid cheque, and many do not receive even that. My son has received “nothing” for the duration of the pandemic, as he is the guy who sets up all the computers and video equipment all for huge Trade Shows and Events all over Canada and in many other countries. He is surviving on what he earns at little jobs here and there and his photography. He’s not feeling sorry for himself, but when he hears those “We’re All In This Together” being stated by high powered folks making huge salaries in broadcasting or politics, it really cuts him to the core. His suffering is different by degree. People are not all on a level line of equal suffering through this time, and he points out that those who are quick to judge someone for going to work to earn some money for a family to eat, even if they break a covid rule to do so, should be less judgemental. It’s a difficult situation. So why am telling you this today?

For we who follow Jesus, personal suffering is not always on a level line either. Bad things happen to good people whether they are “religious” or not, and good things happen to bad people sometimes, people who gain things dishonestly, lie their way to significance etc. We all know this. Yet there are many Christians who “oversell” the “God will protect you and no evil will come your way if you’re being obedient and loving and kind and faithful and so on” sort of theology. That is simply NOT TRUE.

What God promises is to be WITH us in our circumstances, and help us to cope, give us creative ways to help make things better, and provide us through our physical and faith families and friends with folks who will comfort and guide us to the best of their abilities. We know He sends the Holy Spirit to live within us and comfort us . He also gives us the opportunity and right to pray; to call upon Him for help, to be able to act as blessings to others even when we are suffering ourselves. I testify myself that in great times of trouble from which I have not been protected, from which I could not escape, God has been a very present help through that time of trouble. For that I give thanks. Often an idea, a plan, an unexpected surprise or gift, a new avenue of finding happiness or peace would simply come to me after prayer. I continue to hope that happens for you and for all who suffer. And there is another promise in verses 13,14.

The end of Psalm 27 is not that just eventually I will find healing and comfort and understanding and joy when I get to heaven someday.... The promise is that I will see the goodness of God in the land of the living again before I die and go to be with God. I hold that to be true for all who God loves, and that means everyone; and all who love God must love all who God loves. That is how I pray for others who are suffering. That they will again see the goodness of God in the land of the living.

This is a pretty personal glimpse at both my son and me..... There will some who disagree with my points, but for those who may “need” them today, I hope they help.

Prayer for the Day:

Let me enter your heart, O God,
Let me see what breaks your heart,
Let my heart be broken too
That I may be of help.

Make us all channels of your peace
Where there is hatred let us bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there is doubt true faith in You

Make us all channels of your peace
Where there is despair in life let us bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, Master grant that we may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all our souls

Make us all channels of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
It is in giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life