

Coop's Scoops #46 Friday May 29, 2020

I was good to say "good afternoon", but it really isn't! It is threatening thunder storms, gray and gloomy, I can't seem to find and paste the things I wanted to share and I sit perplexed and praying. Therefore, I know that this will pass, and a Scoop's will emerge. Off to make a cup of coffee! Back soon.....



So I'm back. Why would I start a Scoops so glumly? Just to let you know that I too have some down times, and that God is faithful to love me and give me all that I need to move forward. Know that whatever you may be feeling on this drizzling day, whether joyful hope or restless wants or happy moments or teary ones, YOU and I are just where we should be.....held safe in the hands of our Lord Jesus, close to His heart, and about to be filled with new life and purpose and energy.

Also my picture looked so dark, I realized that I had not turned on the office lights! So I did. I feel better already!

Hallelujah! So let's have a joke.....

Two little boys were known troublemakers, stealing everything they could get their hands on, even from the church. One day a priest stopped one of the boys and asked, "Where is God?" The boy shrugged and the priest repeated, "Where is God?" The boy ran out of the cathedral crying to his home where he hid in a closet. Eventually his brother found him and asked, "What's wrong?" The crying boy replied, "We're in trouble now! God is missing and they think we took him!"

For Pentecost Sunday, this weekend:

There will be a full Pentecost worship service from St. Luke's Cathedral (minus congregation) offered by the Very Rev Jim McShane, with music and a full liturgy available. You may print a copy of the liturgy now on the Diocesan website and go to Pentecost Service – St. Luke's Cathedral on Sunday morning at 9am to join in worship.

For families, I'd suggest you also bake some cupcakes or one yummy big cake, light candles and give thanks for the flames of Pentecost, and for the Wind of Pentecost when you blow them out. It has long been called the Birthday of the Church, so let's celebrate!

Balloons will be hanging from our outdoor sign!

Let's all keep on proving that we love our neighbours by not letting up on mask wearing, physical distancing and staying home. Covid restrictions in Ontario had been relaxed somewhat ten days ago allowing for up to five visitors to a family home of not more than five people, and allowing outdoor gatherings of 25 people socially distanced and preferably wearing masks. THESE RELAXED RULES HAVE NOW BEEN SET ASIDE due to an uptake in new cases. We have just learned of the situation in New Brunswick where one doctor not following self-isolation rules after travelling to Quebec , but rather returning immediately to work in the town hospital has resulted in a 150 people being potentially infected, six new active cases and two people in Intensive Care. It is so easy to think "Well, I don't have it" and take chances, but the plain fact is we can have it and not even know and must abide by every safety regulation set out by the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada. Thank you to all who are being intentional and responsible. And to those who think they are somehow immune, please please put the safety of others first and do what is required. If unsure, consult your family doctor or the official government departments to become sure.

Time for another joke, methinks!



Donald Trump is out jogging one morning, notices a little boy on the corner with a box. Curious he runs over to the child and says, "What's in the box kid?"

The little boy says, "Kittens, they're brand new kittens."

The President laughs and says, "What kind of kittens are they?"

"Republicans," the child says. "Oh that's cute," Then the President leaves.



A couple of days later he is running again with his buddy Vice President Pence and he spies the same boy with his box just ahead.

He says to vp Pence , "You gotta check this out" and they both jog over to the boy with the box.

The Pres says, "Look in the box, isn't that cute? Look at those little kittens. Hey kid tell my friend what kind of kittens they are."

The boy replies, "They're Democrats!."

"Whoa!" Al Gore says, "I came by here the other day and you said they were Republicans. What's up?"

"Well," the kid says, "Their eyes are open now!"

(Phew....if you're offended you can write it in reverse, using Al Gore and Bill Clinton, and the open eyes belonging to Republicans)

Scripture for Today: Psalm 61:1-3

61 Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

² From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³ For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.(KJV)

That's a very short Scripture, and this will be a very short commentary There is a wonderful song called "O Shelter Me" by Michael Joncas, recorded by Spiritu during this time of Covid 19. It is found on Youtube. It was sent to me by Susan Pond, warden at St. Ambrose in Baysville, and it touched my heart as deeply as it touched hers. I really want you to try to listen to it! Just google youtube and the name of the song and recording name. I really tried to attach it for you as a live link but, as usual, failed. Here is an excerpt from TheCatholicSpirit.com. "Father Michael Joncas, a prolific liturgical composer whose best-known hymns include "On Eagles' Wings," said he woke up in the middle of the night March 25 with a "nagging

idea.” He had been praying about the coronavirus, and wondered if music could play a special role in these uncertain times.

“What popped up was, maybe there is a way to pray about this that also involves song and that would touch people at a different level,” he said. But, he wondered, what could people possibly want to sing at this time?

Then he thought of Psalm 23, the psalm long used as a reminder of God’s closeness to his people, even amid suffering. “That’s so deeply ingrained in people’s consciousness,” he said. “By writing a paraphrase of Psalm 23, I could make it really connect to what we’re doing today. We know we have intimacy with God.... But right now, we’re walking through a valley of the shadow of death. The result, "O Shelter Me" is an amazingly comforting song, reminding us self-isolation is really sheltering at home.”

We at St Thomas and Lake of Bays parish are all in a time of distress, and we need shelter from an invisible enemy. This song and this Scripture tell us exactly not “where” but “who” our shelter is. Our God Almighty...the Shepherd of Psalm 23 leading His sheep beside still waters and beautiful places but also taking them through the valley of the shadow of death. The Almighty God of David, hiding in caves, searching for rocks higher than his height that he could shelter in, and even though his heart is overwhelmed, he remembers that God has been, many times, a strong tower to protect him from his enemies. And our Almighty Lord Jesus who, in Matthew 11: 29,30 , affirms that He is our yokemate, that we go through nothing without Him, and He carries the burden with us so that ours may be light. Even in the valley of the shadow of death. Father, Son and Holy Spirit....our Shelter in the time of storm. Please listen to the song. If you just can’t get it, let me know and I’ll ask someone to help me get it out to you in simpler form.

Prayer: (paraphrase of a song written by Michael James Ledner

**Lord Jesus,
You are my hiding place You always fill my heart
With songs of deliverance!
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in You!
I trust in You for when I am weak,
Yet I am strong in the strength of the Lord
For You are my hiding place. Amen.**

