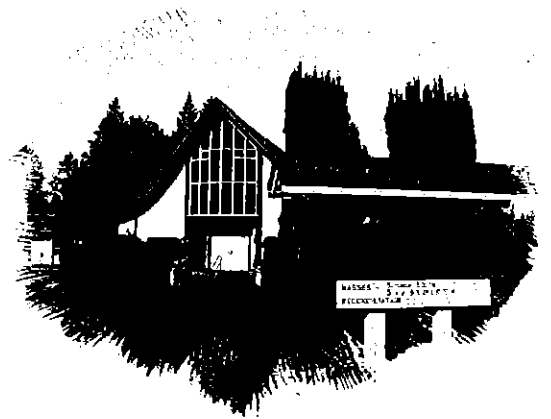


January 5, 2021



My Dear Parishioners:

I send my greetings to all of you young and old this morning. Thank you to all for the hopeful prayers and thoughts that you have sent with love my way these past few days.

My health has not been good for a while now, with pains in my back, shoulder and ribs and now with the discovery that the bone cancer has spread. At this point the doctors do not know where the cancer has originated? Today I am having a biopsy to determine the type of cancer and hopefully find the source of the cancer. Radiation therapy in Victoria will be happening soon, to the areas that are the worse, like the shoulder and lower back.

With the present condition that I am in and the waiting period, until more results have been determined, I will be staying with my family in Comox. Where this present chapter of my life is heading, the outcome is yet to be seen. I know there are many parishioners on the Island and off who are remembering me in their prayers and thoughts, and that is comforting to me. It was not a shock finding out that I have cancer, for as I have mentioned, I have known the pains for a while and that finally the right diagnoses is now known. I told my mother the other day in a conversation, that as people we never know when or how we will die, for it will happen to all of us. The other day in the Nanaimo emergency, I saw a palliative care doctor when they were trying to get the pains under control and she was asked to come and speak to me. I asked her the question, if we are talking about palliative, are we hinting now of dying? She said oh no, there are many people who come in for pain management who are not terminal. I was told earlier that the cancer has spread to multiple areas.

In closing, the first conversation I had with Bishop Gary to let him know what is happening with my health, he said, 'You first have to take care of yourself and the concerns of parish will be looked after as needed'. I thank the excellent job and

Church of the Ascension

887 Wembley Road • Parksville, B.C. • V9P 2E6

Tel.: 250-248-3747 • Fax: 250-248-2732 • Email: ascensionparish@shaw.ca

care with Rosemary Blank in the office for us all and she will need your support in administrating and running the parish now. I will continue to let you know what is happening. I know you do care deeply for me and will want to know how I am doing.

Fr. Mike

Fr. Mike