



January 28, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Acquaintances in the Diocese and Beyond:

This week I had a phone call meeting with an oncologist from the cancer clinic in Victoria. The doctor outlined the treatment program that I will be starting in the next few weeks. The treatment will be at the Comox Hospital, giving me the opportunity to stay with the family. This phase of the journey...four to six months to remission, with a hopeful outcome as there is no cure.

The doctor said that usually myeloma is commonly known as a bone cancer rather it is a blood cancer. I am presently on Dexamethasone, a steroid drug to suppress the myeloma until the treatment program starts. There won't be any more radiation treatments, as I had it once in Victoria to relieve the pain in two areas.

In the last few days I have had conversations and emails from survivors of this cancer who are members of support groups for each other. They are reaching out to me if I have any questions and need to talk to them. I have been invited already to join their regular Zoom meetings. This is encouraging and comforting to be in contact with those who have gone through or along with their loved ones' with the illness.

I thank you again for all the prayers, so many are remembering me and for the cards and emails I have received. I am in good spirits knowing that so many including my family, parishioners, people of the diocese, those from afar, and the doctors are all there to support me in this journey that I will be on for months to come.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Mike*

**Church of the Ascension**

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

Tel.: 250-248-3747 • Fax: 250-248-2732 • Email: [ascensionparish@shaw.ca](mailto:ascensionparish@shaw.ca)