

We are the Community. We are the Church.

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the First Mass
at Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street
on September 5, 2015*

16

December 20-21, 2014

We take inclusion seriously

*Because some members of our faith community were unable to have their portraits taken in November for the Special 50th Anniversary Souvenir Publication, the photographer will be coming back to the parish on **14, 15 and 16, January '15**, to take the photographs.*

*Those who would like to be included in this keepsake publication and get their portraits taken, please phone **Marilyn Turner @ 250-475-3024** to book your session. This is a final opportunity.*

There are to date 140 portraits of members of the Sacred Heart faith community that will appear in the keepsake publication.

*This also allows those who would still like to buy space in the photo album/directory — **to extend their greetings and express their gratitude for Sacred Heart Church on its 50th anniversary milestone** — to do so because of a new **30 January '15** deadline. This is a **50th anniversary legacy fund-raising initiative** —and more than \$2,000 has been pledged to date. The rates are:*

- **Full-page** [10 inches x 7.75 inches]: **\$1,000**
- **Half-page** [5 inches x 7.5 inches]: **\$500**
- **Quarter-page** [5 inches x 3.87 inches]: **\$250**
- **One-eighth page** [2.5 inches x 3.87 inches]: **\$125**

Hymn contest now has prize money!

First Prize: \$1,000;

Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250

The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, established early in 1984, has approved a grant of \$1,750 for prizes for the Sacred Heart Hymn Contest [see bulletin #5] launched in October with our talented musical director, **Rafael Oei**, in charge.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, 24 April '15.

The Foundation of Vancouver Island is a charitable entity with a vision of islanders living vibrantly the teachings of Jesus.

Its sole responsibility today is to nurture and shepherd an endowment — income earned from donations given — fund that enables the foundation to give grants prudently to organizations, institutions, groups or individuals to help them undertake spiritual, educational, social, and charitable projects and programs that help islanders live vibrantly the teachings of Jesus.

In recent years, many Sacred Heart parishioners have served as foundation trustees: **Grant Crosswell, Suzanne Lemay, Keith Jones, Colleen Lissamer, Mike Creedon**, with trustees **Bob Payne, Blair Dwyer, Thomas Hasset** and **Ben Pires** also serving as chairpersons of the foundation's board of trustees.

Did you know?

Call her the "Matriarch of Music" at Sacred Heart Church. And why not? She has been involved in the parish's music ministry for nearly 50 years, perhaps the individual who



With Fr. Jan Planeta

has served the longest in a parish ministry. And, at 91, she continues to be an organist in the church. She was even present at the First Mass celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street on 5 September '65.

Beryl "Bea" Helen [nee Whitehouse] Sheard was born on 31 July '23 in Nokomis [population: 397 in 2011], Saskatchewan. Her birth certificate says she was born at "NW 30-29-21-W 2nd Sask."

Her parents, Bruce Albert Whitehouse and Florence [nee Pearce] Whitehouse, both born in England, met in a farm in Nokomis. Bea was the youngest of four children: Edward, Bruce and Winnifred Mary. The family moved several times in the prairies during the "Dirty Thirties," or the Great Depression of the '30s, when grasshoppers, hail and drought destroyed millions of acres of wheat. The massive crop failures caused Saskatchewan to be known as a dust bowl.

Despite the hardships, her parents, who were very fond of music, bought Bea a piano when she was nine.



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50th Anniversary bulletins can be viewed at: <http://www.sacredheartvictoria.com/anniversary>

She completed high school on 1 August '40 and got her Grade 12 Diploma on 1 August '41 from Elfros High School.

The next year, at age 19, she married George Sheard, 26, on 15 August '42 at St. Gerard's Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. The couple had five children: Robert, Delyth, Theresa, George Jr. and Margaret. George served the Royal Canadian Air Force as a fire fighter in many prairie communities including Winnipeg, Medicine Hat, and Suffield, Alberta. "We moved 10 times during the 25 years in the forces," Bea says.

"One day a priest spoke to me about taking a correspondence on the faith sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, which I did and gained much spiritual insights.

"On one early posting I was asked to play the piano for hymns when a priest came to celebrate Mass at our station. This was the beginning of my love for Church music and my desire to learn more. Eventually, most military stations had a Padre and a chapel. I switched to playing the organ and followed the changes in the liturgy. I then helped with religious classes and choirs."

During their stay in Ralston, Alberta, Bea received in 1952 First Class Honours in Grade VIII piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto.

In all the communities where the family made their home, Bea was involved in the church as an organist and pianist.

"The seeds of my faith were planted by my great grandfather, Joseph Whitehouse, born in England in 1835," says Bea.

When George retired after 25 years with the RCAF, the couple moved to Victoria in '65. The next year she started her music ministry at Sacred Heart Church.

Bea is also a gifted writer and has one-act plays, short stories and poems to her credit. She studied creative writing at the University of Victoria from '77-79 after getting a diploma in clerical bookkeeping in June '69 from St. Anne's Academy.

She bagged the Communicators Toastmasters' Club Awards for "Best Speaker" and "Best Table Topic Speaker" in 1985.

Besides being an organist and pianist at Sacred Heart Church, she was a member of the Catholic Women's League serving as its president for four years ['71, '79, '80, and '81], was one of the founding members of the Creative Craft Group, convened by Fr. Guy Merveille for the First Sacred Heart Charities Bazaar held on 11 November '78.



On 6 May '06, Bea received an award from Sacred Heart faith community for her many years of service.

George, born 19 October '16 in Linton, Essex, England, passed away on 26 December '04. A widow for 10 years,

Bea keeps herself busy playing the organ at church at a couple of weekday masses — "It is my pleasure to continue to do so" — and by four grandsons and five granddaughters.

declared a national shrine on February 11, 2006. Today it is a pilgrimage centre with an attached museum].



**Catholicism
in the continents**

Focus on Asia

Acts of Thomas [a 3rd-century Syriac work] says St. Thomas was reluctant to go on a mission to India but Jesus over-ruled him. It is said the apostle met with Indian kings in the north and in the south. He accompanied an Indian merchant to northwest India, where he served the Indo-Parthian king, Gondophares, and converted him along with many others. Bar-Daisan [AD 154–223] says that in his time there were Christian tribes in north India who said they were converted by St. Thomas. They had books and relics to prove it.

Acts identifies the second ruler as King Mahadwa of a 1st-century dynasty in southern India.

According to Mar Thomas or "Church of Thomas," the apostle evangelised along Kerala State's Malabar Coast in southwest India — mostly where there were Jewish colonies — and founded various churches. He reputedly had about 17,000 converts, including members of the four principal castes.

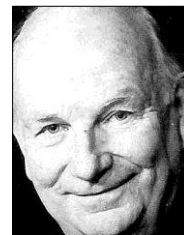
He arrived in Kerala in 52 A.D. and preached between 52 A.D. and 72 A.D.. He was martyred at a place now known as St. Thomas Mount, a small hillock in Chennai in Tamil Nadu state.

St. Thomas was originally interred at San Thome Basilica [raised to status of Basilica Minor by Pope Pius XII] and was

Our Pastors



Fr. Donal Lehane



Born: 27 November 1915, in Cork County, Ireland

Ordained: 3 June 1945, in Victoria, B.C.

Died: 31 December 2005, in West Vancouver

Fr. Donal Lehane was the fifth pastor of Sacred Heart Church and the first

parishioner to be ordained.

He was the son of Donal Lehane and Ada [nee Montrose] and was born in Cork City, Ireland. When he was a year old, the family immigrated to Montreal and moved in 1921 to Vancouver when he was six. They subsequently relocated in 1928, when he was 13, to Victoria where he attended St. Louis College.

He then attended Christ the King Minor Seminary in Burnaby for studies in philosophy and completed his formation in theology at St. Peter's Major Seminary in London, Ontario.

Father Lehane was ordained on June 3, 1945, by Bishop J. Cody at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria.

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