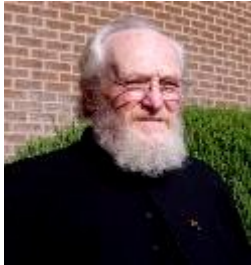


Fr. Robert's Remarks



FR. ROBERT MANSFIELD, SSC
VICAR GENERAL

Greetings, The Lord be with you!

As this issue of the Newsletter goes out we are almost to the Second Sunday of Lent.

Lent is a word that describes the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

The word 'Lent' derives from the Old English word, 'lencten' meaning 'springtime' or 'spring'. The Old Saxon word 'Lentin' comes from a West Germanic word 'langitinaz' meaning lengthening of days.

As the days lengthen, they start to get warmer and we see plants—like the daffodils, and crocuses—that have been buried under frozen ground and snow starting to poke through. It becomes a season of growth; it is Spring.

Perhaps there is an analogy here to Lent as a season in our life in relationship to God when, as we allow our hearts to be warmed by the presence of God in our lives, we allow the fruit of the Spirit to develop and to show in our lives in a deeper way.

In 1959, Fr. Roland F. Palmer, SSJE wrote a little book, *His Worthy Praise*. It was printed as the Lenten Book for the Anglican Church of Canada for 1960 so that Canadian An-

(Continued on page 11)

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Fr. David Marriott, SSC: A Sermon Lent III with comm. St. Gregory the Great



FR. DAVID
MARRIOTT, SSC

In his Epistle to the Ephesians, St. Paul cites the words of Isaiah's prophesy of the coming of Jesus Christ, now fulfilled: 'Be not ye therefore partakers with them: for ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light; (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.' (Isaiah 60.1-3)

'And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them: for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.' In his words, St. Paul adopts Isaiah's concept of 'light and darkness' so that all those who hear or read his words can easily understand that each one of us contains within ourselves the presence of both darkness and light; that we can accept that each one of us has the ability to choose which pathway we might follow, be that a pathway through dark places of sin and temptation, or bring the light of Christ to

*Fr. David Marriott, SSC: A Sermon Lent III with
comm. St. Gregory the Great*

shine in all that we think and do as we pursue our journey through this earthly life.

And that we can understand the reality of the Redemption of all those sins, which we have committed in life before we amended our ways, and accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour, Who, by His gift of Himself on the Cross, cleansed us of past sins and behaviours, so that we are ready and prepared for His coming again to judge the earth. St. Luke writes: ‘And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?’ (Luke 9.23-25)

And we repeat this at every Mass, in the ‘Comfortable Words’:

‘AND HE SAID TO
THEM ALL, IF ANY
MAN WILL COME
AFTER ME, LET HIM
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DAILY, AND FOLLOW
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WHOSOEVER WILL
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ADVANTAGED, IF HE
GAIN THE WHOLE
WORLD, AND LOSE
HIMSELF, OR BE CAST
AWAY?’ (LUKE 9.23-
25)

‘COME unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St Matthew 11. 28.*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

St John 3. 16.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.’ *1 St John 2. 1, 2.*

But, despite all the valiant efforts of Isaiah and the prophets, many rejected his counsel, as many more have so done in the years from his time all the way to our days. We all accept Jesus’ words, when He says: ‘Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.’ (Matt. 7.1-2) – but then, as we leave church, we start ‘judging’: ‘What did you think of...’, even of our own parish family: I remember, as a teenager, thinking that many folk only went to church to show off their new hat, new car, new suit – to show their neighbours how ‘successful’ they were! And you all might recall the words of St. Gregory, whom we commemorate this day: ‘They are not Angles, but angels, if they were

*Fr. David Marriott, SSC: A Sermon Lent III with
comm. St. Gregory the Great*

Christian".^[71] Aphorism, summarizing words reported to have been spoken by Gregory when he first encountered pale-skinned English boys at a slave market, sparking his dispatch of St. Augustine of Canterbury to England to convert the English, according to Bede.' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_I)

As human beings, we must never forget that we are both light and darkness, that there are always occasions when we turn off the light, and embrace darkness. For some, this might be a short time, but for others, as we might have encountered to our peril, it might be for far longer, leading to St. Paul's words: 'But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named amongst you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not befitting'. It is why we need to repeat our confessions, and hope to receive the Absolution from sin that we desire, which will open the door to the promise of eternal salvation. It is why, during Lent, we sing the Lent Prose as a post-Communion hymn: 'Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinn'ed against thee.', and especially, verse 4: 'Sins oft committed now we lay before thee with true contrition, now no more we veil them, grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.'

'AWAKE, THOU
THAT SLEEPEST,
AND ARISE FROM
THE DEAD, AND
CHRIST SHALL GIVE
THEE LIGHT.'

Some time ago, Fr. Mansfield held an 'elevator contest', to find a short phrase that we can use to tell people why we go to church: perhaps the words of Isaiah, written long before there were any 'elevators', might be good? 'But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Therefore, it is said, **'Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, And Christ shall give thee light.'**



Bonnie's Reflections: Competent



BONNIE IVEY (& LAD)

In his Lenten sermons delivered in the late 300's to Christians living among pagans, St. John Chrysostom characterized his teaching as knowledge shared to make his hearers *competent* in their faith. A dictionary defines "competent" as "Having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully", giving the example "A highly competent surgeon."

Today we are the ones surrounded by a society that worships many things

Bonnie's Reflections: Competent

apart from God: such as the self, one's accomplishments; or fame, money, beauty, possessions, talent and power. Believers today need to work hard to offset these false and distracting ideals. Like the early Christians, we need to seek competence in our lives with regard to following the Lord. Those of us who have access to solid teaching, as well as pastoral care, are in a blessed community.

When St. John Chrysostom addressed his congregation in one Lenten sermon, he said each Christian person should be able to answer questions about his or her spiritual growth gained during Lent.

“What defect have you corrected? What good work has been completed? What alms have you given? What sin cast off? What stain washed away? In what respect have you become better? What understanding has been gained? What wound has been cared for?”

“What did you do about reconciliation with an enemy? Are you still resentful about something that happened? What apology have you made? Have wandering eyes led you into sin? What alms have you given?”

St. John challenges his people to be careful of their relationship to God. We might be very eager for an employer's approval, for example, yet assume the Lord will overlook any negligence in our relationship and our obedience to Him. Would a soldier, asks St. John, be that presumptuous about disobeying his commanding officer?

Deceit is another focus of St. John's concern. He knows we are tempted to find fault in others. “Do you praise someone when he is present, then speak against him after he leaves?”

How do we deal with anger? He asks, “What can be more wretched than a man perpetually angry, incessantly raging? He has no peace...Even passing his enemy's house; hatred, resentment, well up.”

You say, “I can't apologize. He'd think I'm weak, and come after me even more...”

“Let him think so. Pardon and be reconciled. God approves of this action. Don't let malice take root and give Satan the advantage! Seeing someone who is your brother cut off from friendship is a wound to the Body of Christ! Don't let it go till some other time. One day is enough. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.”

St. John knows that the “Prison of Resentment” is locked on the inside. Forgiveness is the key.

ST. JOHN KNOWS
THAT THE “PRISON
OF RESENTMENT” IS
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SIDE. FORGIVENESS
IS THE KEY.





Fr. David Marriott, SSC: Africa Appeal March 2025



*Republic of
Cameroon*



*République
Démocratique
du Congo*



*Republic of
South Sudan*



*Republic
of Kenya*



Rwanda

Rwanda.

On February 27th, I wrote this to Father Chadrack: ‘It seems that the situation in Bukavu is relatively calm, with schools reopening, although there was much violence in Goma. We have managed to send urgent help to the two Dioceses in Congo, in Bukavu and Baraka.

With regards to the Guardian article, it seems to only have been so recently, that the UK government was arguing that Rwanda was a safe and secure country, suitable to be a safe place for the UK to send illegal immigrants.

It would seem that, during this period of conflict, there will be little development or discussion to resolve the situation for the parishes: we all pray that small groups are still able to meet for prayer and contemplation.’

In his reply, Father Chadrack, in pain from the longstanding back trouble from his childhood, asks that we keep him, the clergy and parishes in our prayers that a resolution for the church closures can be found, ‘Your prayers and support is paramount.’ The knowledge that somewhere in the world, there are people who understand what you are going through, and keep you in their prayers, is of such importance, whether it be Rwanda, Congo, South Sudan, Haiti, or Ukraine, can be of immense spiritual value.

Cameroon.

It seems that wherever you are, life is being adversely affected by ‘climate change’, which has taken its toll on Yaoundé, and the ACC Cathedral site in Nsimalen.



In January, there was a brush fire, which caused three electricity poles to fall: Bishop Alphonse wrote, ‘To repair our power line which was damaged by the unexpected fire coming into the bush without knowing the origin on the night of January 13 (Photos attached).

The burning part is about 350 in length including the 3 burned poles The request for funds (\$953) to remedy this dark situation in order to review the energy we submit to you with your team this request.

As Bishop Alphonse wrote, this encouraged local ‘bandits’ to gather, but were

Fr. David Marriott, SSC: The Africa Appeal —January 2025

dispersed quickly. We were able to send funds for the repairs, asking that the work be well done: the Bishop has sent these photos...



With climate change, Yaoundé has had heavy rains, which damaged crops, followed by drought. When, not like for most of us in Canada, you depend for your food supplies on what you grow in your gardens, this can be disastrous. I recall that my parents, during food rationing in Britain, had farming friends, who had extensive stores of ‘preserved foods’, similar to farm families in Saskatchewan, where winter weather could close road travel for days.



Thanks to your support, we have been able to send \$200.00 on March 3rd to ensure that the Nduiyi family can maintain their health at this time.

Missionary Diocese of Congo, Bukavu.

On Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 02:27:58 AM EST, Ayule-Milenge Steven <ayulesteven@yahoo.fr> wrote, with copies to Mr. Tom Wilkins and me:

‘His Grace Archbishop Mark Haverland,

I just called Father Justin Balyamwabo, Parish Priest of Saint Francis of Assisi Moshu, he said that the Congolese soldiers who were fighting at Kavumu airport slept in the church and others in the Parish plot. Thank God they did not open the hospital gate to enter. So, our hospital is saved from looting. I called all my Christians and clergy, they are wide awake, none of our parishioners' houses have been destroyed. They respected the instructions given by the Holy Spirit yesterday when we were in prayer asking people to stay in their homes because God will protect everyone. Thank you very much for your prayers. At this time, sweeps are taking place in the avenues and neighborhoods to see if there are still soldiers hiding in the houses. +Steven.’

Moshu, on the shores of Lac Kivu, is between the Kavumu airport and Bukavu. On February 17th, Bishop Steven sent this news report: *‘The Rwandan army, in collaboration with the M23/AFC terrorists,*



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who are currently occupying the city of Bukavu, have perpetrated massacres that have resulted in many casualties, the majority of them children. This is what testimonies collected on Monday, February 17, by the ACP inform. According to a Bukavu resident, M.M., civilians, mainly children, were killed near Camp Saïo, on the heights of the city, when the attackers arrived. "They killed several children of soldiers near Camp Saïo, on the heights of Bukavu, when they arrived. I can't tell you how many, but there are a lot of them," she said."

The 'Agence Congolaise de Presse' reports (translated by Word) : 'The violent and targeted attacks on civilians are part of the escalation of violence linked to the war of aggression that the DRC is suffering in the east of the country.

This tragedy once again highlights the extent of the suffering inflicted on the civilian population, mainly children, caught up in this conflict.

The M23 rebels and the Rwandan army have been occupying the city of Bukavu, capital of South Kivu province, since Sunday. This, before having taken possession of the city of Goma a few weeks ago by blood money. More than 4000 Congolese were killed and thousands of wounded recorded.'

(WTK (Agence Congolaise de Presse, <https://acp.cd/>) Since then, it is reported that schools have reopened, as local government reopened, but now under M23 control.

On the morning of Lent I, March 9th, I received disturbing news from Bishop Steven, 'Greetings in Christ our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through this e-mail, I would like to greet you and always thank you for all those that Africa Appeal and yourself are doing for me and my diocese despite the difficulties that the population is experiencing at the moment. People believe that after being free from the Kinshasa dictatorship, the security situation will change, but it is the opposite in the eyes of the people. The killing every day the corpses are counted by the local Red Cross. The vehicles were looted and taken back to the nearby city of Rwanda. (Cyangugu)' He added that the DRC army had fled, leaving their weapons, which prisoners who escaped from the jail collected to settle old conflicts.

However, Bishop Steven added, 'I would like to present to you the project of the construction of the St. Augustine Nyalushozi Walungu Mission which needs \$1500 to cover with the sheets. By Tuesday we will finish pouring the concrete of the linton. Receive in the appendix the images of the building of the Saint Augustin Nyalushozi Walungu Mission.' When I queried the wisdom of this project at a time of insecurity, he assured me that Walungu, some 40 kilometres from Bukavu, is under DRC-Kinshasa government control: we are considering the request.

In a recent press release, the Congolese government announced that it would impose taxes on products from areas occupied by the M23, including Goma, Bungana and Ishasha, which would further curb economic activity.

Prior to this announcement, food and fuel prices were already on the rise due to disruptions to local supply chains and markets.

One resident told the BBC that the price of a kilo of sugar has risen from 2000-3000 (\$1) CFA (Congolese franc) to 5000-6000 CFA (about \$2), while the price of beans has also doubled.

Market assessments by the World Food Programme (WFP) show that staple foods such as maize flour

Fr. David Marriott, SSC: The Africa Appeal —January 2025

have increased by nearly 70 percent, while groundnut and salt prices have also skyrocketed.

Shelley Thakral, WFP's media officer in DRC, told the BBC that they were "extremely concerned" about the effects of food insecurity, especially on young children, adding that they were already seeing cases of acute malnutrition.

However, WFP has been able to resume some of its operations.

"We are looking to set up new warehouses, figure out what we can restock and bring in from other countries, and what we can buy locally," Thakral said.

Thakral added that the people of Bukavu were also facing a liquidity crisis.

Banks, which are controlled by the DRC's central government in Kinshasa, remain closed and long queues have formed outside as people try to access money.

"Life has become very expensive," a local journalist in Bukavu told the BBC.

"The population needs money, but it doesn't circulate. It is difficult to get food because we don't have money to buy it."

At a recent rally, the M23 reportedly vowed to take action if the government did not reopen and license the new banks.

Crime is also on the rise.' (<https://www.bbc.com/afrique/articles/c8713v32ww3o>)

Eastern Missionary Diocese of Congo, Uvira, Fizi & Mwenga.

On February 17th, Bishop Lameck wrote, 'Hello father, I am in Baraka, no way to escape the aggression of the M23 I am so sick and lack means too. Thank you father. In Christ'.

On February 19th, he wrote, 'The war enters my diocese in Uvira, 60 km from Baraka, that is to say in two days they will be in Baraka. Pray for us. +Bishop Lameck. In Christ.

However, Bishop Steven wrote, saying that the DRC army had prevented the M23 forces to take over Uvira, that the DRC government was still in control in Baraka, and that Western Union was still functioning in Baraka.

This was good news, because we have had to use the Mpesa transfer system for transfers to Bishop Steven, which makes the transfer to the recipient's cell phone, using Remitley.com (<https://www.remitly.com/ca/en/dr-congo>) We have used this system for South Sudan and Bishop Garang.

Using Western Union, on February 28th, we sent CDN\$500.00 to Bishop Lameck, for him and his Clergy at this time of uncertainty and fear. Unfortunately, the Canadian dollar being under attack at present, this \$500.00 translated into US\$324.13, the currency used in the DRC!

Fr. David Marriott, SSC: The Africa Appeal —January 2025
Kenya.

Bishop John Ndegwa writes, ‘It is another month that I find great pleasure in sharing the news about Kenya.



At **Resurrection Church, Kayole**, after we commissioned leaders of our various groups, a family of 3 brothers and their sister, who are farmers requested us to hold what would otherwise be the *feast of the sheaf of first fruits*, since they had just harvested bananas from their recently inherited land and Esther was there to welcome them. There is a development about this family since we may soon have a freely-godly donated land at Embu County , in Mount Kenya region. We continue praying for the family.

On **Saint John’s Mission, Kathaka**, as per the *attached* communication from father Fredrick, we are going to harvest our maize next week. We could have done it on Tuesday and Wednesday as per his suggestion but Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and I must be at Kayole to commence the observation of the Lenten season. We shall therefore harvest on Thursday and Friday. This has been the most unpredictable and delayed season since we started farming, because harvesting is taking place more than 2 months late due to delayed rains that resulted to late planting.



On the **Kinangop development**, we travelled with the Archdeacon for a week with an intention of dealing with water tank(s), guttering, piping and preparing the land for our next planting season. We got workers who as they did their jobs, the Archdeacon and I were repairing the house and painting it in order to start making it more habitable. We did guttering and piping as well as the tanks foundation and installed one huge tank in an area between the house and the farm and also adjacent

to the borehole beacon. We expect to install the second tank as soon as rain falls and the water trajectory is clear.

Expected plans for March which includes, construction **at Saint John’s Kathaka** are **making annual returns** to the office of the attorney general and commencing of the Lenten season during **Ash Wednesday** on

5th March, we expect this to be **a season of collecting offerings** for the sake of supporting the forthcoming Synod that shall be held in 11th to 13th April 2025, whose budget has been estimated at \$1,300 towards, accommodation of delegates, meals during the 3 days and feeding of congregants on 13th April which shall be Palm Sunday.

Our prayers are with all of you as we embark on this year’s Lenten season.

In Christ

John Ndegwa,



How to support these churches:

There are no deductions from money received by the Appeal; the full dollar amount is sent to Cameroon, Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda or Kenya. Administrative costs, e.g., money transfer fees, are paid from gifts received for this purpose.

In Canada

The Parish of St. Bride

By cheque payable to the Parish of St. Bride and sent to The Parish of St. Bride, 10125 - 276 St., Maple Ridge, V2W 1R5

Please make a note that the funds are for the Africa Appeal on the front of the cheque. Tax receipts will be issued by the parish.

E-transfers can now be made to St. Bride's using the e-mail address stbridepittmeadows@gmail.com and putting "Africa Appeal" on the message line.

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The St. Paul Missionary Society, The Anglican Catholic Church, PO Box 5223, Athens, GA 30604

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Anglican Catholic Church Missionary Diocese of Australia and New Zealand Appeal Fund

By cheque made out to: ACC (OP) DAT and sent to

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If you intend the donation for a special ACC (OP) project, please let us know, so we can designate it accordingly.

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Please be aware that given the current Australian Law situation, we are unable to offer any tax deductible receipts.

In the UK

Cheques should be made payable to Anglican Catholic Church - Diocese of the United Kingdom and marked on the back "Mission". If you would like to designate a particular county please indicate which one. Mail to: Diocesan Treasurer, ACC Diocesan Office, St Nicholas House, 42-48 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN.

Fr. Robert's Remarks

glicans could get used to the 'New Prayerbook'. The *Book of Common Prayer (Canada)* 1962 received its initial approval at the 1959 General Synod and its final approval at that of 1962.

Of Lent, Fr. Palmer wrote,

Lent arose out of the setting aside of several weeks each year for the preparation of candidates for Baptism and Confirmation, which took place at Easter. They were prepared by instruction, prayer, and fasting. Christians who had fallen into grave sins were also prepared for restoration to Communion during this same period, and the whole Christian people joined with them in keeping this season as a time of penitence and devotion. (Read the Preface to the Penitential Service for use on Ash Wednesday, page 611.)

The whole of the Penitential Service is worth reflecting on, prayerfully, not just on Ash Wednesday but, as the title of the Service suggests—PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR USE ON ASH WEDNESDAY AND AT OTHER TIMES.

Aside from the Exhortation at the bottom of page 611, there are several things to which I keep coming back.

At the opening are the three Sentences.. There is a call to repentance and belief and then to those who respond to that call there are two comforting promises. There is the promise that all those given to Jesus by the Father and who come to Jesus shall in no wise be cast out. Then there is the call, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. . . ."

The latter Sentence is used, in part, at the Eucharist as one of the Comfortable Words though there is a subtle change. In the Eucharist along with other revisions of the Prayerbook from 1549 on and including our Canadian 1962, the offer is "I will refresh you", presumably from the Coverdale translation. In the Penitential Service it reads, "I will give you rest." (Authorised King James Version)

For those who are finding things overwhelming, carrying heavy burdens, with things on the heavy side this is a welcome promise. The promise is repeated— "ye shall find rest for your souls.

On page 614, there is the lovely devotion, "Lord, for thy tender mercies sake, lay not our sins to our charge; But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives; to decline from sin, and incline to virtue; That

"COME UNTO ME, ALL
YE THAT LABOUR AND
ARE HEAVY LADEN,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU
REST. . . ."

TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

TACC Office
136 William St.
Parry Sound, ON
P2A 1W2

Phone: 705-746-7378
E-mail:
vicargeneral@traditionalanglican.ca
&
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EUNTES IN MUNDUM UNIVERSUM
GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD

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Fr. Robert's Remarks

we may walk with a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore." This I remember singing in choir to a beautiful setting.

The other thing to which I would draw attention is the anthem *Rex gloriae* on page 615—again, something worth using as a Lenten prayer and for prayerful reflection.

O KING all glorious amid thy saintly company, / who ever shalt be praised:

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, / and we are called by thy holy Name.

Leave us not, O our God; / but grant us that with a pure conscience we may duly keep the Paschal Feast,

And at the day of judgement / be placed in the number of thy Saints and chosen ones, King most blessed.

May you have a blessed Lent.

More next month,

R+



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The Africa Appeal

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Contact Info:
Fr. David Marriott, SSC
drm274@hotmail.com
409-15210 Guildford Dr.
Surrey BC V3R 0X7
604-551-4660