

## Retreat Dates

August 12 – 17<sup>th</sup> 2018

## Animator

We are excited to welcome Maria Garvey as our animator for the retreat. Maria lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Many of you met her in 2016 when she joined us at that summer retreat. Maria is an experienced retreat leader and educator. She was touched by Jean Vanier's message of inclusivity many years ago and has lived in several L'Arche communities. She was the founding director of L'Arche Belfast and remains part of that community. She will bring her unique gifts and life experience to lead us in our retreat.



The retreat will include:

- Daily talks
- Daily liturgy
- Share faith in small groups
- Silence and reflection times
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Social times
- Childrens' program

## The Facility

Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo provides a peaceful and restful environment with grassy areas, woodlands and a chapel overlooking Westwood lake. There are walking trails and a large swimming lake adjacent to the property.

## What is Faith and Sharing?

Faith and Sharing is a Christian ecumenical and transforming retreat experience. It is an opportunity to encounter the Body of Christ. Participants come from **all** walks of life with many stories to tell. Faith and Sharing is an invitation to reflect on the gospel, pray, share and celebrate our lives together. The experience is only the beginning to a new way of life. At Faith and Sharing you will find a community to support you as you strive to live a richer life.

Our theme for the retreat will be  
***Your presence is the gift.***



## History of Faith and Sharing

In 1968, Jean Vanier, a former philosophy teacher at St. Michael's University in Toronto, was invited by the Bishop to give a retreat for priests. At that time, Jean Vanier was living in France where he founded the L'Arche Community. Jean Vanier agreed to give the retreat, but insisted that it not be a retreat solely for priests. He asked it be open to all people from many walks of life, and in 1968, Faith and Sharing was born, soon becoming a worldwide movement. He invited people to **share from their hearts.**

In 1974, Bishop Remi De Roo attended a Faith and Sharing Retreat in Vancouver. He returned and encouraged a group to start Faith and Sharing on Vancouver Island. A five day retreat was held in Duncan in October 1974. Retreats and days of renewal have been organized every year since.

***For more information,  
contact Terri at 250 465 2080***