Dear Parishioners: God bless you this Easter & every day of your life! Welcome to one & all who have come to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the Dead – may each person & family know the presence of the risen Lord among us. My thanks to all the volunteers & parish staff who have laboured so mightily to make our celebrations so beautiful: thanks to everyone for their extra efforts over these most sacred days. I think our world needs our joyful witness more than ever, as we witness the great suffering going on all around us: please take a moment to read the interview with an Iraqi priest (now serving in the Diocese of Victoria) about the persecutions of Christians in the Middle East, and consider what your witness will be as Canada adopts a law on euthanasia. How will we speak to our world about the value of human life? I will include some brief comments (below) about the soon-to-be drafted legislation: please consider writing to & talking with our representatives and Ministers of Government about this life-and-death issue. I thank all those who have (and continue to!) supported the Muhammed Family from Syria. The little acts of common decency we can muster on their behalf go a long way towards bringing our Catholic faith’s vision of a re-created world of peace & justice into reality. Do we see the Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus in our lives, in our world? Heavenly Father, may we see the Easter of your Son everywhere! God bless you & your family. Fr. Matt

Action on Euthanasia: The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (www.epc.org) calls upon all Canadians to let their voices be heard in government by signing the Caring Not Killing petition but especially by sending hand-written letters to our MPs, federal ministers (Health, Justice, the Prime Minister), as well as their provincial equivalents. Effective letters only mention one (two at the most!) issue, so please choose those which are closest to your heart – or conversely, send many letters! Let our lawmakers know your concerns:

- for the dignity of life in general;
- the unjust (illegal?) lack of nation-, and province-wide palliative care; the fear of pain many people have as a result;
- the erosion of trust between patients & doctors;
- the rights of conscience for doctors & nurses who believe in “doing no harm”;
- the federal recommendations about youth & those suffering mental disease legally choosing to end their lives.

Your own words, written in your hand are the most compelling way to communicate to those who will craft and enforce this disaster of a legal situation. Your considerate thoughts (I certainly would not want to be responsible for bringing in this legislation) and compassion for all suffering should be very evident in everything we say. Especially during Easter Season, let people know that death is not the answer.