

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

June 1, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, May 31
4PM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION: Pro
Populo

SUNDAY, June 1
9AM MASS: Alastair
MacIsaac+

TUESDAY, June 3
9AM MASS: Laurence
Charles Dubois+

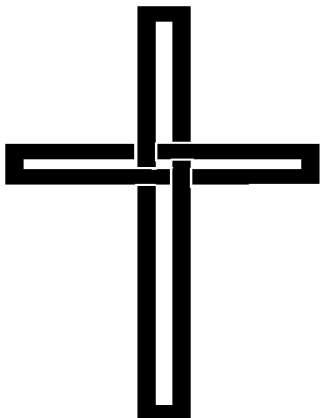
THURSDAY, June 5
9AM MASS: Colin Batty+

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,
FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No events scheduled.

LIVESTREAMING
SUNDAY, June 1, 11AM
[https://www.youtube.com/@St
PatricksHolyCrossChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch)



If I were to ask you “What is more immediately on your mind: the ascension of Jesus into heaven or World communication Day I would not be surprised if the majority would answer: “World Communications Day.” After all, in a world of spin and misinformation where news is no longer news but power persuasion, we need to reflect deeply on communication in a way that focuses on dialogue and respectful listening. It has always struck me that the Scriptures mentioned specifically two places where the dead and risen Jesus cannot be found. If we look for the dead and risen Jesus in the grave or among the dead, then we are looking for him in the wrong place. That is the significance of the tomb being empty. But if we look for Jesus in the sky, or if we expect him to appear again as some sort of E. T, then we are looking for him in the wrong place as well.

The term ascension is susceptible to unintended comic imagery of Jesus waving good-bye from a balloon gondola or being lifted on a wire. Another unfortunate connotation is that heaven is somehow “up,” while we are left down here. Perhaps such imagery does help us to imagine that in the resurrected Lord, God (heaven) and we (on Earth) are united. Having become incarnate in Jesus, God is never only watching from some great distance. “I am with you until the end” are the simplest words, but the most profound. There is no need to stand looking at the sky with our jaws hanging open. For Christ is here, as close as our own breath, keeping us alive to carry his presence into our world.

The ascension of Jesus into heaven has nothing to do with his departure from our world. Jesus has not left our inhuman world in search of a better world among the stars. He has not turned his back on us. On the contrary, his ascension means that he is more than ever powerfully present and active among us to accomplish the task for which he was sent and for which now he enlists us as his disciples: the bringing about of God’s Kingdom of love, justice and peace for our world. In that light, celebrating the ascension of Jesus has nothing to do with saying goodbye to Jesus. Rather, it is our being empowered by him, and our accepting the task and challenge to change our world in his power, so that it becomes indeed God’s kind of world. Before the Ascension Christ was present in one place, now he is present in every place. Now - we do not need to gaze up into the sky: he dwells with us; he lives in us and is not absent - but among us forever.

God is closer than we think,
Fr. William

We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory Holy Cross Parish stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse at
RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Canada Day BBQ

Holy Cross Parish is hosting a Canada Day BBQ on Sunday, June 29th for Holy Cross Parishioners.

- ⇒ 9am Mass
- ⇒ 10am Coffee/Tea
- ⇒ 11am Lunch in the Church Hall and Gardens

Please RSVP your family's attendance in the Foyer by June 13th, including any allergies. RSVP is not required but encouraged to help us estimate food quantities. To volunteer to support the event, please also sign up in the foyer, and Sloane will contact you with volunteering details. This event is FREE. Donations to contribute to costs are welcome!



Job Opportunity: Pastoral Administrator for Holy Cross Parish

The Diocese is seeking a Pastoral Administrator for Holy Cross Parish in Victoria, to maintain and grow the community and its service to the people of Gordon Head while it awaits the appointment of a Pastor. The successful applicant will bring a grounded, spiritual life, supported by theological education and practical experience as a community leader. For more information and how to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Applications must be received by June 21.

St Vincent de Paul

Holy Cross Conference of St. Vincent de Paul warmly invites parishioners to provide direct, person-to-person support, offering financial aid and essential resources to those in need.

Why Join?

- Make a Difference: Your efforts in serving God and helping others will transform lives locally and globally.
- Manageable Commitment: Up to five meetings per year, balancing meaningful involvement with your schedule.

For more information, contact Don Rose at 250-891-5607.



Humanitarian Trip to Nicaragua

Mary Hof from St. Edward's Parish in Duncan is going to Nicaragua, on February 10-24th, 2026 for a Humanitarian Trip. She is working with the Catholic Church in Nicaragua to bring aid and humanitarian help. This requires lots of physical activity including hiking. Catholics from our Island community are welcome to join. For more information about this humanitarian trip, email mhof126@gmail.com

Prayer for the Children Celebrating Confirmation and First Communion at Holy Cross

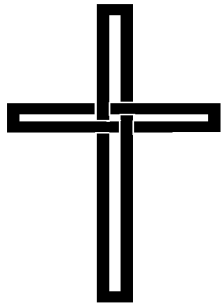
The Year 2 group will celebrate the sacraments on Saturday June 21, 2025 at the 4pm Vigil Mass, celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi at Holy Cross with the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Hall. All are welcome. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children ready to receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them - the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, reverence, and fear of the LORD. Lord Jesus, welcome them to your sacred table to nourish their bodies and souls with Yourself, true bread of eternal life. Amen.



2025 Anawim AGM Announcement

Dear Members and Friends of the Anawim Companions Society, you are invited to attend the Anawim Companions Society's 2025 AGM. When: June 12, 2025 at 7-8:30 PM, doors open at 6:30PM / Where: Holy Cross Parish Hall, 4049 Gordon Head Rd.



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

“Ascensions into heaven are like falling leaves, sad and happy all at the same time. Going away isn’t really sad, especially when your going enables a new kind of presence to be born.”

—Macrina Wiederkehr

“Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him.”

—St. Augustine

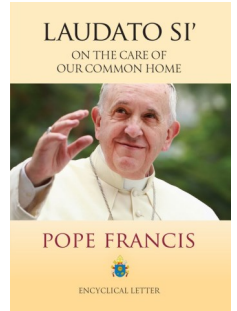
“The Ascension completes our faith in Him, who was God as well as man.”

—St. Leo the Great

PLEASE NOTE: The Office will be closed Thursday, June 5th for a Diocese staff retreat.

Development & Peace

Caritas Canada invites you to come and celebrate Jubilee 2025 and the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. Friday June 20th 5:00-8:00 pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. The evening will begin at 5:00 pm with an opportunity for fellowship, followed by a potluck dinner. Our two after dinner speakers are Bishop Gary Gordon and D&P animator Raphael Freston. Please bring a pot-luck item to share, beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Nancy Stuart at nancys-tuart7@gmail.com if you plan to attend. All are welcome.



Listening Circles at Holy Cross

As part of the ongoing Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod, you can still participate in this year's cycle of Listening Circles at Holy Cross. You are invited to participate in the **one** of the remaining session to be held virtually on Monday, June 9 at 6:30pm (Online).

Please reflect ahead of time on following three questions:

- What is one story from your own faith and life that you would like to share?
- What is your experience or connection with Christ, the Anointed One, in your faith journey?
- How have you experienced blessings and hope in your life, in your parish, in your school, in your church, or in your family?

To register contact the parish office. Bishop Gary hopes to hear from as many of us as possible!

Taize Prayer

All are invited to come pray in the style of Taize resumes at Broad View United Church, 3703 St Aidans Street, 6pm on Friday, June 20. www.taize.fr

Holy Cross Library

The Holy Cross Library, located in the Parish Centre, contains approximately 1800 books concerning all aspects of our catholic faith, liturgy, and church history. The collection can be browsed during office hours, unless the room is booked for a meeting, and books can be signed out (except for the reference collection). We will try to keep some books on display in the church foyer that relate to themes in the liturgical year and can also be signed out right there. Please let us know if there are recently published books you feel should be added to the collection. We also welcome the donation of recently published books in good condition that are relevant to the collection and its purpose. Contact John or Martha Oleson for information by emailing the office.



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has shared a short Note on Prayer from its Episcopal Commission for Doctrine. The note offers a simple introduction to what prayer is and points to a set of helpful new resources prepared by the CCCB's Jubilee planning committee. Please find this "Note on Prayer" here: https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Note-on-Prayer_EN-2025-04-22.pdf

A Call for Volunteers

Interested in volunteering, email us at office@holycrossvictoria.org! Check out the open positions:

- ⇒ Liturgical ministry: 2 Gift Bearers (one for the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month - 4pm Mass) and Eucharistic Ministers (Body and Blood)
- ⇒ Social Committee Members
- ⇒ Building Maintenance Coordinator



Pastoral Care: Social Calls

Are you feeling lonely or know someone who would appreciate a friendly conversation? Our Pastoral Care volunteers are available to make regular social phone calls to those who are homebound, isolated, or simply in need of a listening ear. These calls are a gentle reminder that no one is ever alone and that our parish community is here to offer friendship, encouragement, and support. To request a social call for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office at 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org.

Baptismal Prep

Want your child baptized? Upcoming sessions: Sat, June 7 (10:00 am–12:00 pm). Email hcsppbaptismal-prep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact info. Registration and a Baptismal Prep session are required. The coordinator will follow up from your initial email with details.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the St. Andrew's High School's Music Department for hosting their Spring Fling performances here at Holy Cross Parish. It was such a joy to have see all your incredible talents!



COLLECTIONS

May 25, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,630.00
Loose	\$ 362.00
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 280.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,307.75
Total	<u>\$4,579.75</u>

CONTACT US

Pastor: Vacant

Executive Team: Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar & David Begg

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

250-477-5321 / office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 / officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Fr. Sean Flynn

250-889-3761

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-3:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

www.holycrossvictoria.org

250-477-5321

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9AM

Saturday 4PM

Sunday: 9AM