



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY April 19, 2020
Divine Mercy Sunday

When you hear the story of those early days of real community centered around "the breaking of the bread and the prayers," all those "signs and wonders," that singing and praising, you may feel a little thrill—or a little jealous. Being a member of Saint So-and-So's parish today might not sound quite so exciting, to be honest...although any parish will do in pandemic times, as we see livestreaming take off. Our contemporary situation is not unlike being Thomas on the first day of the week: All your friends have seen the Lord, but not you! If an event doesn't happen to you, it's like it didn't happen at all.

Thomas was dead right to demand such an encounter. Secondhand faith is never enough to lose your life for, nor is it enough to save it. Every follower of Jesus requires the reality-shattering experience of an incarnate encounter with God-with-you. If you have not once in your lives leaped to your feet or sunk to your knees shouting, "My Lord and my God!" then it's time you've been given the opportunity. The everlasting love of God comes to you in flesh and blood at every Eucharist. If you haven't seen the Lord yet, it's time to demand the revelation you need to buy into the gospel and be church.

The last fact about Jesus is not that he was put to death, but rather that he has been raised from the dead and that as the risen One, he lives among us and is the source of the hope with which we stand in life. You find it really well described in the readings of today: the first believers came together not to bemoan the fact that Jesus had been put to death, but to give expression to the fact that Jesus lives among them, and that the God to whom Jesus bore witness is a God of life, compassion, of peace, of reconciliation.

As much as livestreaming is convenient, community is not about isolation. To be a disciple of Jesus, to be a witness of his resurrection in our day to day life, to be a Christian, is not a private affair. We cannot do it on our own, without the support of brothers and sisters in the Church. When we stumble and fall in life, Jesus as the risen One is the light who shows us the way. But we must be willing to come together as Christians to have our faith conviction affirmed and strengthened. I miss our gathering as much as you all miss the Eucharist!

Perhaps the early disciples can teach us something about difficult times. Their lives had fallen apart with Jesus' execution. The excitement and promise of being his companions had filled them and they hadn't yet had the time and maturity to reflect deeply on what Jesus was about. Now he was dead. Kaput. Gone. No more. And they were afraid they would also be killed. I wonder if the authorities really considered them a threat - they who ran away, denied, betrayed, and trembled.

"Peace be with you" - Each of us probably needs to hear that too and receive it. Our lives go on their merry way, dragging along our mistakes, weaknesses, and incompleteness. We can get swallowed up in fear and discouragement. We can become paralyzed, mummified. "Peace be with you" Christ is Risen! He walks with us. Breathes his own Spirit into us. We can start to forgive our sins and the sins of others. We can break free of the "tombs" that confine us.

The English poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, speaks of the meaning of Easter as being what must happen to us, because of what happened to Jesus. 'Let him Easter in us,' the poet writes, 'be a dayspring [a dawn] to the dimness of us ...' The poet's message, expressed more simply, plainly, bluntly, is that the Risen Lord must rise in us - in our minds, attitudes, hearts and actions, - if Easter is to happen to us.

Let him Easter in us
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Open for phone and email Tuesday to Friday

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Daily Mass with Bishop Gary

As we continue to journey together during these challenging times, all are invited to join Bishop Gary Gordon from the comfort and safety of your homes as he celebrates Mass through a live stream from the Cathedral. **To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria** or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19th

A concluding ceremony for the Novena to Divine Mercy will be *live streamed* from the Cathedral after the Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday. Plan on "attending" virtually and allow yourself to receive the incredible graces that Jesus wants to pour out on those who venerate and invoke his Mercy.



A NOTE ON GIVING

We know that Covid-19 and the resulting economic slow down has effected many of you personally. Given that financial uncertainty is greater than ever, we understand that some of you will no longer be able to give to the parish at your regular level and those on automatic debit may need to cancel their contributions. If you need to cancel or change your automatic payments, please contact the parish office at (250-477-5321) or email us at office@holycrossvictoria.org

In addition, to make it convenient for those that are able to contribute there are new online and remote options now available:

- Online through Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/register/tier-two/>
 - Automatic Debit (PAD)
 - E-transfers and credit cards (e-transfers can be made to the following email: developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org—please be sure to include your name and parish in the e-transfer message).
- We are very grateful that you are part of our Catholic parish family. May God bless you and your families.**

For the latest updates, memos and information please check our parish website frequently:
www.holycrossvictoria.org



holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

COLLECTION for April 12, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 5,185.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,292.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,477.00

OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick's and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>
Like and follow the page and please do send photos of the church for posting!

Live Mass broadcast this Sunday! Divine Mercy Sunday Mass will be broadcast from St. Patrick's on Sunday, April 19th at 9:00am on the YouTube page.

Click the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5NzsSMWmOTJe7UdReKf6Kw>

Please subscribe to the page for future Masses!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH

When Pope John Paul canonized Sr. Faustina (making her St. Faustina), he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday (the feast day associated with the message) as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. On that day, Pope John Paul II declared, "This is the happiest day of my life."

UPDATE ON CHURCH MAINTANENCE

Last week we installed two new gas fired rooftop units for heating and air conditioning the church. The old heat pump units were no longer working and needed to be replaced. The units were installed by Lorne Birmingham from LB Airsystems, who has been looking after our system for years. The total cost was approx. \$35,000.

