



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 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

It strikes me that the beautiful Gospel story we just heard is in fact a description of what we are about here. It is not too difficult to recognize you and I in those two disciples who are on their way to Emmaus. Is it? And look what it is that makes them slowly come to the point of recognizing Jesus as risen, as being very much with them. It is a recognition that enables them to snap out of their dejection and disillusionment so that they can take up life again with a sense of purpose and hope, strengthened and renewed; what makes that possible for them is their searching of scriptures and their breaking and sharing of the bread, in the presence of Jesus.

But those are exactly the activities that we engage in while gathered in real or virtual time. Every Sunday before COVID-19 - as disciples of Jesus have done for centuries - we too come together around the scriptures and around the bread and wine that we share. We gather in Jesus' name. All of us have been baptized in Jesus' name. We recognize him to be present in us and among us; we are very much a Jesus community. I know that not everything about us as a Jesus community is perfect. The same is true of our life of faith. It has its ups and downs; faith is something that needs to be constantly re-appropriated in the light of new life experiences. While we may pride ourselves in being believers; we know our life of faith can be called into question and challenged at one time, and at other times it can be seriously tested and shaken. We have our moments of joy and peace, but also of doubts and questions. That is why we need to come together and search the scriptures, much like the disciples of Emmaus.

Some of us are quick to admit we don't need help in being foolish. We do this quite well on our own. Nonetheless, the story of the Emmaus travelers provides a checklist of choices that lead to boneheaded moves. First of all, they abandon hope too soon. Second, they separate from the community of faith. Third, they discount reports that Jesus is still being encountered. No wonder they didn't recognize Jesus when he was standing right next to them! Practice patience. Stay close. And seek the Lord while he may be found. How many of us, traveling in the dark along the 'Road to Nowhere', wake up in the hour of Eucharist and remember who we are and in whose blessed company we are privileged to stand? Even at midnight, it is not too late to turn back and regain our place among those who believe. It is never too late! To the mad, sad, bored and ignored ...it is never to late! The Emmaus story is a living paradigm for Christian discipleship. It strongly suggests that if we travel life's journey with others, sharing our faith and our doubts with them, Christ will be with us, opening our minds to the truth. For these disciples on the road, all they had hoped for seemed to be over and gone.

Dear friends, in a nutshell the two key messages in today's readings are that we *must give and receive witness* to the truth of Jesus Christ. Who are some of the least likely witnesses to Christ you've encountered? What did you learn from the strength of their faith? Could you stand as Peter did in a crowd and speak of Jesus' resurrection and saving power? Let us continue to put the Resurrection to work.

Easter in us,
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Open for phone and email Tuesday to Friday

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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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

VIRUS-FREE BASKETS AND TOMATOES

Geraniums also available, **hanging baskets \$45, 3 varieties tomato \$3.50, 4 coloured geraniums \$5.** NO TAXES, all proceeds to Mount Saint Mary's Hospital Call now to arrange pick-up May 15—25th.

Thanks for your support
Ellis 250-477-6754



MARCH FOR LIFE 2020

BC March for Life 2020 Due to concerns and restrictions around COVID-19, there will not be a March for Life in Victoria in 2020. Although this cancellation is unfortunate, this provides pro-life Canadians from across the country the opportunity to come together to defend life in different ways. The National March for Life is organizing a week of online pro-life activities from May 10-14, culminating in a virtual rally on Thursday, May 14th. We encourage you to tune in to this national, virtual celebration of life. Let us let our entire country know that, although COVID is shutting down things across the country, it will not shut down our defense of life! Check the National March for Life website for further details and updates: marchforlife.ca

In faith, there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't.

—Blaise Paschal

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



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

COLLECTION for April 19, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 2,170.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,292.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,462.00

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! Sunday Mass will be broadcast from Holy Cross Parish on Sunday, April 26th 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!

SERVING SOUP TO THE HUNGRY

Did you know the Soup Kitchen is an essential service, and continues to provide food to those in need during the current pandemic. In this challenging time, we offer soup-to-go bagged meal service, and observe physical distancing and other prescribed practices in fulfilling our community mission.

The 9-10 Club "Serving Soup to the Hungry" is the oldest, completely volunteer-run food resource for the hungry in Victoria. The Soup Kitchen is located in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral, and is open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 to 10:00 am.

We wish to extend our thanks, and appreciation, to the numerous volunteers and donors who have graciously supported our operations for more than 30 years. Further information is available at: www.thesoupkitchen.ca

