



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

**Mission Statement:** 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 3, 2022**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

John's Gospel today teaches us about God's compassionate presence encompassing all. Compassion permeates God's judgment, justice and mercy, and this outpouring of love for us reveals God's deep desire to free us from our guilt and shame. Everyone has dignity and value and deserves respect and reverence.

Tender, sweet compassion flows forth from Jesus to all in this scene. His heart is filled with the love of God the Father and the Holy Spirit as He engages with the Scribes and Pharisees, the crowd, and the woman caught in adultery. Jesus assumes a humble, vulnerable posture by bending down in front of them. He places himself in solidarity with the accused, the woman caught in adultery, humiliated and traumatized by a frenzied mob, and in solidarity with the fears and confusion buried deep within the hardheartedness of the accusers.

The scribes and Pharisees objectify the woman and use her to test Jesus. She is being scapegoated by their judgment and self-righteous attitude. They fear losing power and control, yet Jesus' compassion gives them two opportunities to save face. He writes on the ground with his finger, He stands up and says, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" then bends down and writes on the ground a second time.

Now the elders would connect the gesture of using His finger to write on the ground to the story of Moses on Mount Sinai receiving the 10 Commandments written by the finger of God on the two stone tablets (Ex. 31:18). They would recall their history how Moses came down the mountain and 'broke' the Commandments over the idolatry of the Golden Calf and how he had to go back up the mountain a second time to receive new tablets that God wrote on. Jesus doesn't react, argue, push back or humiliate. In gesture and word, He gently turns it back to them for reflection.

An agitated crowd is motivated by their feelings; they become a 'mindless' mob. It's hard to reason with a mob, so Jesus diffuses the crowd by getting them to think, remember, reflect and discern as individuals. God's merciful light reveals their anger and self-righteous attitude, and one by one, they disperse. Pope Francis speaks of God's mercy as "a great light of love, of tenderness. God doesn't forgive with a decree but with a caress". He forgives by "caressing the wounds caused by our sins, because he is involved in forgiveness, is involved in our salvation".

Jesus now stands and looks at the woman with compassion. His tender love and unconditional forgiveness lifts her shame and gives her new life. He sees her as His Beloved, and her dignity, value, and voice is restored.

Jesus calls us to look within and see our need for forgiveness. Hear Jesus say 'I don't condemn you. Go and sin no more.' Henri Nouwen says, Jesus' "compassion makes it possible for us to face our sinful selves, because it transforms our broken human condition from a cause of despair into a source of hope."

In prayer, humility, wisdom, grace, mercy, and love, Jesus' compassion envelops it all and goes beyond by offering a better way, a way out of shame, past sins, our 'self-imposed cages' by opening our hearts to the Voice of Love. Jesus pours out mercy, forgiveness and love from the cross and calls us to walk the road of freedom through His resurrection.

Let God's compassionate love and mercy shatter our hearts of stone so we can forever dwell in the heart of God.

God's abundance, Mona



#### OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm

**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

***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.***

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

**LIVESTREAM MASSES**

**Live Mass broadcast this weekend!** Mass is livestreamed this week from *St. Patrick's Parish on Saturday at 6pm*. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE**

All people of the Diocese of Victoria are invited to join in the celebration of the Chrism Mass. At this yearly liturgy, sacred oils are blessed and given to representatives from each parish in the diocese. These will be presented in each church on Holy Thursday and used during the coming year for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. The Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. All are welcome to participate in person, or via the livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/>

**SHARE LENT - SOLIDARITY SUNDAY!**

**This Lent, give from the heart.** Development and Peace's *People and Planet First* campaign invites you to give from the heart and thanks you warmly for your generosity.

Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. In Cambodia, for instance, your solidarity helped our partner DPA establish a community fishery in Srey Packly's village. She said, "Thank you very much to DPA and to the donors for supporting my family and fellow villagers to have fresh and healthy fish to eat and to improve our livelihoods."

Such is the difference you can make by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give). Thank you for helping us build a world of justice.

**SYNOD LISTENING CIRCLE**

**Have you participated in any Synod activities yet? If no, you still have time.**

Here's how you can still participate in the Synod:

Join an **in-person Parish** *Synod Listening Circle* session by **calling the parish office to register:**

**Wed, April 6** after morning mass (9:45am at the church)

Watch the bulletin for one additional session to be held later in April

**NOTE:** Prefer an in-person Listening Circle on a weekend, please let the parish office know and Bev Pulyk would be happy to organize one.

**OR** - Join a **virtual Diocesan** *Synod Listening Circle* session by clicking on the link to register for one of the following sessions

April 5th 11:30-1:30 pm <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/298819746907>

April 12th 6:30-8:30 pm <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/310548808847>

**OR** - Respond to a survey

Paper survey is available at the back of the church. Paper surveys can be dropped off or mailed to the church or Diocesan Office.

or [Click here to complete the form online.](#)

**LIBRARY CORNER & CHURCH FOYER**

Additions to the Holy Land travel books of the 1930's in the church foyer by H V Morton, are his two books in collaboration with Bishop Fulton Sheen (remember him?) and photographer Yousuf Karsh as they take us to Palestine and Italy three decades later.

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

In this life guilt is not atoned for by any suffering simply as suffering, but rather by suffering borne with desire, love, and contrition of heart. The value is not in the suffering but in the soul's desire.

—Catherine of Siena (1347-80)

As long as we continue to live as if we are what we do, what we have, and what other people think about us . . . . we will remain addicted to putting people and things in their "right" place.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

**REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT EASTER**

The Arts and Environment Ministry Team welcome donations for the Easter floral display. If you would like to contribute and remember a loved one, please pick up an envelope in the foyer. When completed drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the office.



*Deadline is April 14.*

**40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS FOOD DRIVE**

Next weekend the Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Drive-Thru food drive to fill the shelves at the Vincent de Paul Food bank.

Dates: Saturday April 9th --10am to 3pm

Sunday, April 10th --12:30 to 3pm

Place: St. Joseph the Worker parking lot

753 Burnside Rd West Join the knights to help those in need.

**REFUGEES SPONSORSHIP GROUP REQUEST**

We expect our sponsored Newcomer family of three to arrive within the next few months. Thanks to the generosity of Holy Cross Parishioners, a lot of the logistics for their provision have been worked out. Having a **doctor** who is willing to take on the Newcomer family is next on the list. If you are aware of a GP who is taking new patients or one who might take this family by exception, please contact Martha Oleson [olesonmartha@gmail.com](mailto:olesonmartha@gmail.com)

**THE GARDEN OF ELLIS**

**FLOWERS, BASKETS AND VEGGIES!**

**YOUR CHOICE, MT ST MARY HOSPITAL OR UKRAINIAN RELIEF FUND**

Please order your flowers, baskets and tomatoes now and let me know which charity you prefer. **ALL PROCEEDS** go to charity, all ready for pickup May 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your anticipated support  
Ellis: 250-477-6754

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, April 2nd**

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Mama Sen Narciso +

**SUNDAY, April 3rd**

9am Mass: Hilary Ribeiro +

**MONDAY, April 4th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, April 5th**

9am Mass: Fr. Jim Bekkema +

**WEDNESDAY, April 6th**

9am Mass: Lawrence Hudon +

**THURSDAY, April 7th**

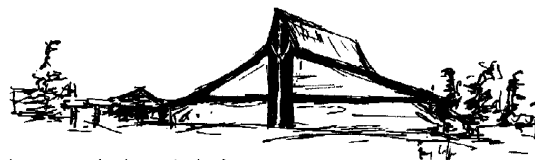
9am Mass: Johnny Chow +

**FRIDAY, April 8th**

9am: Mass: Jackie Boyd +

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*Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.*



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

**COLLECTION for March 27th, 2022**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 1440.00
Loose	\$ 275.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3392.00</b>

**THANK YOU**

Thank you Escher Nicholson for donating all your coin savings to Holy Cross Parish! We appreciate it. Julie Vlaszaty is proud grandmother of Escher.

## HOLY CROSS CONTACTS



**Pastor: Fr. William Hann**  
250-477-5321  
250-294-9615, *after hours*

**Hospital Chaplain:** 250-889-3761

**Administrative Assistant:** Valentina Boyd  
250-477-5321, [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake  
250-477-5321 [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

DATE	HOLY WEEK LITURGY	
14 April, Thursday	Holy Thursday	- Holy Cross 7:00 pm
15 April, Friday	Good Friday, Station of the Cross	- St. Patrick's 9:00am - Holy Cross 11:00am
	Good Friday Service	- Holy Cross 2:00pm - St. Patrick's 4:00pm
16 April, Saturday	Easter Vigil	- Holy Cross 8:30pm
17, April, Sunday	Easter Sunday Liturgy	- Holy Cross 9:00am - St. Patrick's 11:00am



### **SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE – K OF C UKRAINE SOLIDARITY FUND**

To donate through the Knights of Columbus go to the Ukrainian Solidarity link at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)  The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has promised to match every dollar up to \$500,000  Canadian tax receipts will be provided if your donate from Canada. Click on "DONATE" on the red banner. In Canada, Knights of Columbus Canada Charities, Inc. is a registered charity with the CRA Located at: 888 Sidney St., Belleville, ON K8N 4Z5 (Business Number: 886163997RR0001).

Donations can be made by cheque Payable to:  
"Knights of Columbus Canada Charities",  
"Ukraine Solidarity Fund" written on the memo line.  
Send to: Knights of Columbus Canada Charities

