



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 4, 2021

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of the Lord

Alleluia! Christ has risen! Like a breath held too long, joy, hope, new life, and gratitude explodes from the empty tomb and shouts out, 'This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!' Jesus' self-emptying reveals the essence of a compassionate love, a radical redemptive act of love that leads to the cross, a gift of love freely given, and a resurrection love that transforms us if we let it. On this Easter morning, how do we receive this gift?

I come with open hands, a posture of humility and gratefulness, yet grief clings to me. I stand at the entrance of the empty tomb with the stone rolled away and confusion, sadness, and a silent vigil still hangs over me. I'm clinging to the suffering and pain Jesus had to endure; I'm clinging to our intolerance, judgment, and hatred toward each other; I'm clinging to the uncertainties and anxieties of Covid times. And in this time of vulnerability, I hear Jesus calling my name and holding my hand, gently saying, 'Trust, surrender, believe, let go. Let go of your fears, leave them behind like the linen wrappings that bind you and open your eyes to the love that surrounds you'. There is mystery here. In the emptiness, the darkness, and the despair, Jesus brings healing, hope, and new life. His forgiveness and love triumphs over death; God's enduring light conquers the darkness.

Like Mary Magdalene, I recognize Jesus' voice and hear Jesus call me by name and my heart leaps for joy. When you listen to the gospel being proclaimed this morning, put yourself in the scene searching for Jesus, and when Jesus says 'Mary' hear Jesus say *your* name. Hear *how* Jesus says your name, for He knows you intimately! Let the significance of that intimate moment wash over you; let the risen Christ transform you, and by your living, go forward and tell everyone!

St Thomas Aquinas called Mary Magdalene the Apostle of the apostles. She is the one who brought the news of the empty tomb to Peter and John, and later, commissioned by the risen Christ in the garden, she announces to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!' Mary's great love for Jesus kept her in vigil throughout Jesus' passion and brought her to the tomb early that morning. Jesus calls her by name, and her heart reverberates in that love! July 22 is the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the resurrection and faithful disciple of Christ.

We are called to be joyful and enthusiastic witnesses to Christ and to testify to everyone that he is the One whom God raised on the third day. All that Jesus taught and preached is confirmed. Jesus Christ, love embodied, love divine, Son of God, transports us into Divine love. This all-encompassing Love brings *shalom*, a deep abiding peace that we experience when we are living in right relationship with God and others. Our lives move from self-centeredness to God-centered. We begin to see the world as God sees the world, with eyes of love and acceptance, seeing beyond the exterior to the heart of the matter.

Have we left the tomb? Have we entered into Easter joy? Trust that God is in control. Let Christ be the starting and ending point in our lives for we now live *in* and *with* Christ.

Easter, a time of spring and renewal, sprouting and new growth, a new day dawning that enfolds the darkness. In his book *The Passion and the Cross*, Fr. Ron Rolheiser says 'love triumphs over hatred, peace over chaos, forgiveness over bitterness, hope over cynicism, fidelity over callousness, life over death, and good over evil, always. God has the last word'.

Blessed Easter everyone! Mona

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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HOLY WEEK AT HOLY CROSS PARISH: April 1-4

Unfortunately, this year there will be no in-person services during Holy Week and no parking lot Masses going forward. All services during Holy Week and going forward will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Please make note of the online service schedule, as follows:

- **Holy Thursday, April 1st:** 4:00pm
- **Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, April 2nd:** 3:00pm
**On Good Friday St. Patrick's Church will be open for private prayer from 9-11am; Holy Cross Church will be open for private prayer from 12 - 2pm.*
- **Easter Sunday, April 4th:** 10:00am

*Recognizing that many of you have gone a year without the Eucharist, Fr. William has decided to provide Communion outside in the Holy Cross parking lot after the livestream Easter Sunday Mass on **April 4th, from 11am-12noon**. Please drive into the parking lot and follow the guidance of the ushers. Please do not park and get out of your vehicle.

Please note: The office will be closed on Friday, April 2nd for Good Friday.

It has been a long year, difficult and lonely year for many of us. It is now the second Easter that we cannot gather as a community during the most significant celebration of our Liturgical year. It is painful, and heartbreaking. And yet we must remain steadfast in our commitment to prioritize the health and safety of our most vulnerable at this time. Please feel free to reach out to the pastor or parish staff member if you need support in this regard: 250-477-5321.

BIRTHRIGHT PLANT SALE



Birthright is taking orders now for tomato plants and other edibles, perennials and shrubs. Please see their website below for more details.

Pre-paid plant orders will be delivered to St. Patrick's parking lot in mid May for local pick-up. (Target date is May 15, subject to weather.) <https://birthrightvictoria.org/garden-babies-for-birthright-plant-sales/>

PASTORAL TRAINING OUTREACH MINISTRY

Diocesan Pastoral Training Outreach training will be offered through nine online Sessions:

The Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be launched via Zoom starting April 17, 2021 and will be offered over nine consecutive Saturdays (9:30 to noon) concluding on June 12th. Participants will require a phone number and an email address and they should register through their local parish. Participants will require a computer, smartphone, or tablet with a strong internet connection, with access to speakers, a microphone and a camera. If you are fluent with the Zoom platform, using visuals, breakout rooms and can troubleshoot minor issues we need your volunteer support with one or more of the new nine Diocesan Pastoral Care sessions.

For inquiries or to volunteer to assist with one or more sessions, please contact: moiraking@shaw.ca

LIBRARY CORNER

Holy week's Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection are the culminating great events of Christ's earthly visit --- and with the Last Supper's Eucharist, his earthly visit continues.

A Day-by-Day Guide to Holy Week <https://www.newsmax.com/US/Jesus-Holy-Week-Easter-day-by-day-guide/2015/03/30/id/635369/>

PRAYER REFLECTION

We must reflect the light of Christ through lives of prayer and joyful service to others. —Saint Pope John Paul II

I . . . have faith in the cross . . . as the revelation of the “way” or “path” of transformation, as the revelation of the depth of God’s love for us, and as the proclamation of radical grace.

—Marcus J. Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*

Every day do something that won’t compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. . . . Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. . . .

Practice resurrection. —Wendell Berry, *Manifesto*

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/dioocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

Diocesan Blog: Bishop Gary Gordon, in his 2021 Easter Letter, wishes all of the people in the Diocese of Victoria and abroad that this season of Easter joy may enliven us to go forth and bear witness to the Good News. You can read his letter [here](#).

St. Andrew’s High School - Message from Bishop: Please watch this short video from Bishop Gary as he describes the need for our Christian community to support St. Andrew’s Regional High School and the construction of a new Performing Arts Wing.



[Bishop Gary Gordon](#)

“The foundation of this building is Jesus Christ...the real heart of Catholic education is our Christian community.”

Please consider being a part of the foundation growing St. Andrew’s Regional High School by supporting the Building on Success Campaign...

[Building On Success Campaign St. Andrew's High School](#)

Together, we will provide the optimal learning environment to educate the whole person and the development of the spiritual, academic, physical, emotional and artistic gifts of our students. Your gift will positively impact our students and build on their success.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be livestreamed from Holy Cross Parish:

Thursday, April 1, 2021 - 4pm

Friday, April 2, 2021 - 3pm

Sunday, April 4, 2021 - 10am

Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, April 3rd

Easter Vigil
No Service

SUNDAY, April 4th

Easter Sunday
10am Livestreamed

MONDAY, April 5th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, April 6th

Intention: Maura Minehane +

WEDNESDAY, April 7th

Intention: Romanito Alanes +

THURSDAY, April 8th

Intention: Joe Laturnus +

FRIDAY, April 9th

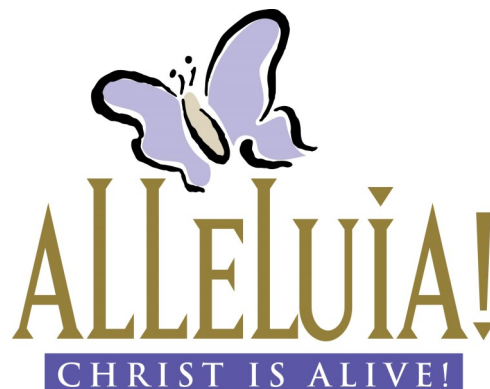
Intention: Max Price +

At this time there are no in-person Masses being held.

The church will be open for private prayer from 9am-1pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please sit only on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians.

Thank you!

Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.



COLLECTION for March 27, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 3,865.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$1,677.00 |
| TOTAL | \$5,542.00 |