



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 August 16, 2020 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Canaanite woman in today's gospel was in desperate straits because her daughter was beset by a demon. She took the inventive step of approaching someone, a man no less, of another ethnic group because she believed he could help her. And she showed fierce mother love when Jesus was about to dismiss her as unworthy of receiving the message he came to proclaim. The ferocity of her faith made Jesus reconsider not only his response to her, but also his entire role. She taught him that a mother's love knows no bounds—and neither should God's.

Many are uncomfortable with the initial response of the disciples and Jesus to this woman, will prefer to present this encounter as a test of the woman's faith: Did she believe in Jesus "enough" to get the miracle she sought? It seems equally plausible to present this meeting as a test of Jesus' own understanding of his mission. Could he think outside the box of "salvation for the house of Israel"? In either testing scenario, we stand to lose something we value in Jesus: the unfailing depth of his compassion or the omniscience of his vision. Discomfort ensues either way. We may not like the feeling, but no one promised the gospel would be painless.

If anyone is being tested in this gospel story, however, I think the case could be made that it is us. Are we prepared to think outside the box of our own presumptions about who's in and who's out of God's favor? Will we continue to police the borders of the church to make sure no unauthorized or unworthy person manages to get the scraps that fall from the master's banquet of salvation? Life in Tyre and Sidon is hard enough. We to whom grace has been given so freely and without merit might spare a little for our neighbor.

In our fractured world, it is as genuinely desirable as it is practically impossible to imagine all the children of God united in love, humility, and purpose. From the earliest memory of the church, Saint Paul labored long and hard for a reconciliation between Jewish and Gentile believers, but too many clung to what divided the clean and the unclean: the marks of circumcision, dietary observances, and obedience to the Law of Moses. Today, the walls that divide us seem steeper than ever. The day when God's house will be a house of prayer for all people seems very, very far away.

There is dear friends, a natural tension exists between the familiar and unfamiliar, the neighbor and stranger, our kind and every other kind. Even Jesus seems initially to have limited his mission to "the lost sheep" of Israel. A clever woman, a Canaanite, persuades him to think outside the box on this issue. Later, Saint Paul abandons the box altogether, taking the gospel to the Gentiles outright. We're the beneficiaries of that decision. These days, as we wrestle with how much we're obliged to share our land and its richness with others, we might consider the crumbs that fell from the table to us.

Think outside the box
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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www.holycrossvictoria.org

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your pastor or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.

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!

Please Note: The Bishop is presently in Tahsis and has experienced some technical problems in live streaming the Sunday Mass since he's been there. The link to access Bishop Gary's masses is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRinXZ2d6GBMpnDM7boVICA>

However, if you are having trouble accessing the live stream from Tahsis, the St. Andrew's Saturday 4 pm Mass is live streamed to the Cathedral YouTube site with one of the priests residing at the Cathedral celebrating. It can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHKgVThoqsU&feature=youtu.be> (for August 15th beginning at 3:45 pm for a musical session of praise) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKnRCVYp4PA&feature=youtu.be> for August 22 at the usual 4 pm time. ***Father William will be away from July 22-August 31st. His first mass back will be Tuesday, September 1st for the 9:00am mass.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION COURSES 2020/2021

As summer progresses many of us are beginning to look ahead to the upcoming year for the sacraments of Confession, Confirmation & First Holy Communion. We plan to have classes beginning in late September. Due to COVID-19, how this year of preparation will unfold is still being planned. For now, we welcome new registrations for either year. Please send an email to barbshenton@ics.rcdvictoria.org with your family name, your child's name and age and a return email. A registration form will be forwarded to you.

OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

We continue to reach out in spirit and prayer, to all of our Holy Cross parishioners who are unable to attend Mass in person at this time. This week please particularly keep in prayer fellow parishioner Alan Bailey, who is waiting to have major heart surgery in the coming days. Alan is a long time member of the choir, and was also responsible for making our Sacramental wine for many years before handing over the reigns a couple of years ago. We are thinking and praying for Alan, and all the others in our community who are facing health challenges, surgeries, and treatments during this time. We are in this together.

'LIBRARY CORNER'

August the 8th was the feast day of St Dominic (1170 to 1221) who founded an Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) that have been and continue to be one of the most prominent and long-lived orders of the Church. Dominic and the very notable history of the Order can be found in the following website https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Dominic#Foundation_of_the_Dominicans

A certain good humoured rivalry has existed between the Dominicans and the Jesuits (founded 1540) as typified by the following anecdote, which in this case, the Jesuits seem to have the last word.

"A Jesuit and a Dominican discussed whether it was acceptable to smoke while praying. They couldn't decide on a definitive answer, so they agreed to ask the Superior of the Retreat they were attending.

The Dominican asked, 'May I smoke while I am praying?'

'No, of course not. When you are praying you should concentrate on God, and nothing else.'

The Jesuit said 'Let me try.' He asked, 'Is it alright if I pray while I am smoking?'

'Yes, of course. You should pray all the time, no matter what else you are doing.'

PRAYER REFLECTION

That is our vocation: to convert . . . the enemy into a guest and to create the free and fearless space where brotherhood and sisterhood can be formed and fully experienced.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen (1932-1996)

As this bread, scattered on the mountains, was assembled to be one, may your church be likewise gathered from the extremities of the earth into your Kingdom.

—Didache, first century

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/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

MERLIN'S MUSINGS: These can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesan-blog/merlinsmusings17>

Note: During the summer months the Diocesan Pastoral Centre will **be closed on Fridays**. Please see their website for current opening hours: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/>

DONATIONS FOR BEIRUT

Following the deadly explosions that devastated Beirut, thousands of people have been affected as 159 people have died, more than 6,000 have been injured, and over 300,000 people have been left homeless. Development and Peace, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, is working with Caritas Lebanon to provide food, water, medical aid, and psychological and social support to those impacted by this crisis. You may donate directly to Development and Peace at: <https://bit.ly/2DRwfvf> or by calling 1 888 664-3387. **Any donations made to Development and Peace before August 24, will be matched by the Canadian government.**

THANK YOU

Fr. William would like to thank all of you for your continued prayers and support for his brother, Tony, who had a fall last week and sustained a serious head injury. He is currently back in ICU and underwent a tracheotomy on Wednesday. Fr. William was able to go see him in the hospital. We continue to pray for Tony and his family as they journey through this difficult time together.

Thank you Joanie Bidlake for filling in at the office last week! Your commitment and dedication to this community, and your support in the office is so appreciated. Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts ❤️

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, August 15th

2:30-3:15pm Reconciliation

4:00pm Mass: **Mazza Family (Int.)**

SUNDAY, August 16th

9:00am Mass: **Tom Taft +**

MONDAY, August 17th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, August 18th

9:00 am Mass: **Heather Decker +**

WEDNESDAY, August 19th

9:00am Mass: **Joan Marcus (int)**

THURSDAY, August 20th

9:00am Mass: **Eileen Knapik +**

FRIDAY, August 21st

9:00 am Mass: **Kamal Akeed**

Alraban +

At Holy Cross Parish you must now register for which day of the week you would like to attend Mass. You can register by emailing Joanie Bidlake at:

officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

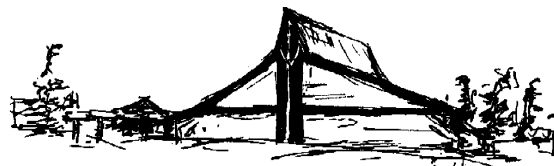
Our Mass schedule remains the same for now:

Tuesday – Friday: 9am Mass

Saturday: 4pm Mass (full)

Sunday: 9am Mass (full)

*please note that you may select a Mass time from St. Patrick's Parish Mass schedule. To do this please call Deborah Mackay at St. Pat's at: **250-592-7391**.



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

COLLECTION for August 10, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 1,565.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,452.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,017.00