



# 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 2, 2020 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's readings, we are all invited to be nourished by God, to know that as God's beloved, nothing can separate us from God, and with Jesus' encouragement, together, we can bring about the kingdom of God.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, God invites everyone who thirsts to come, buy, eat, and enjoy the fullness of God without money and without price. What an invitation, what a gift! God calls all of us into this generous, freely offered relationship of Love. How do we respond?

Do we know what we are thirsting for? During these past five months, a lot of people have taken the time to slow down and reflect on their lives, to see what is really important. People are listening to the longings of their hearts, to their hopes and dreams. They want more out of life. 'Things' don't satisfy this longing; rush and busyness create noise and confusion so we can't hear the small, still voice of God; our way of living disconnects us from our heart space. Quality time, sacred space, nurturing family, connecting with nature, resting in the silence and peace brings balance, a connection, a wholeness.

St. Augustine taught that we thirst for God because God has first thirsted for us. God creates this thirst in us and graciously wants to fulfill it. Isaiah offers us water, milk, and wine. Water refreshes, hydrates, and soothes us: "He leads me beside still waters. He restores [refreshes] my soul" (Ps 23:2-3). Milk nourishes and sustains us. Wine lavishly poured at the wedding feast brings good cheer and joy to the heart. So come, receive the gift of Christ, the living water, the nourishment, and the abundant wine that is poured out for our salvation.

Thirst for God! Come, listen, and live within a covenant of "steadfast, sure love." Draw near and surrender to this precious gift freely offered.

We belong to Christ; we are made in the image and likeness of God. Nothing can change that! Scripture shows us time and time again that God remains 'steadfast, merciful, compassionate, kind'. Our covenantal relationship is binding. God promises that nothing will separate us from the love of Christ. Do we believe that?

Covid times have caused great hardship and distress as well. Loved ones dying alone, people feeling lonely and afraid...where is God? We know that God is with us in it all. We can look back on our own graced history and see how God was with us when we felt alone, how trying times made us stronger, created opportunities when we turned to God. God's love and grace conquers everything! Pray for the grace to place our lives in God's hands. Trust that God is in control, have faith and believe!

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees the crowd and, despite his own grief and need for solitude and prayer, his heart overflows with compassion and he begins to minister to them. When the hour is late and the people are hungry, a great miracle happens. Jesus tells his disciples, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." What?! How is this a miracle? Jesus asks us to be co-miracle makers. Jesus wants us. Jesus invites and encourages us to work alongside him, to use our gifts in collaboration with him, to feed one another, to give thanks, to bless, to share with one another at the Eucharistic table.

Covid saw more gardens planted, random acts of music, singing, painted rocks with loving words, neighbours supporting neighbours, people bringing groceries to those home bound. The miracles have been endless!

God invites; I'm called to respond. God says nothing will separate us; I'm called to trust and believe. God says, 'give them something to eat'; I'm called to cooperate and share my gifts to build up the Kingdom of God. Miracles abound for all. Come, eat and receive all that God offers.

In God's abundance,

**Mona Goodman**

### 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:** Live broadcast of Masses at Holy Cross / St. Patrick's Parishes will resume in September when Fr. William returns. In the meantime, you may access live stream masses from the Tahsis with Bishop Gary Gordon via this link: [www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

Alternatively, the Cathedral also streams it's **Saturday 4pm mass** which you can view through this link: <https://youtu.be/yWwj0oVymOE>

*\*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****SACRAMENTAL PREP – YEAR I & II**

As summer progresses many of us are beginning to look ahead to the upcoming year for the sacraments of Confession, Confirmation & First Holy Communion. How exciting! 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](mailto:barbshenton@ics.rcdvictoria.org) with your family name, your child's name and age and a return email. I will forward a registration form to you and add you to our mailing list for communication purposes.

Barb Shenton, Sacramental Preparation Coordinator

**SCAM ALERT**

There is a scam going around using the Bishop of Victoria's name, BUT there has also been a resurgence of the scam involving Fr. William's name which has gone around in the past. The scam using email and text messages from Fr. William has also reared it's ugly head again. If you get a text message or an email from "Fr. William" asking for gift cards and or cash please **IGNORE** this message. Often the initial message is an invitation to call or email him back. **IGNORE** that also. Fr. William has never, will never and would never contact parishioners with this kind of request. Stay vigilant!

**SCAM  
ALERT!**

**OFFICE HOURS NEXT WEEK**

Please note that the office will be open next week from Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 12noon. The church will **NOT** be open for private prayer next week, and will be locked after the 9am mass is finished.

On the Tuesday, August 11th the same office hours and church closure applies.

Thank you for you cooperation! Have a wonderful Long Weekend!

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

Sharing food with another human being is an intimate act that should not be indulged in lightly. —MFK Fisher, American food writer

Our Lord in a desert place changed a few loaves into many, and . . . before the time came to give men and women his own body and blood to feed on . . . he gave them things . . . for nothing to make them understand that his supreme gift would be given yet more freely. —Ephrem the Syrian (c. 306-373)

Love is an act of faith, and whoever is of little faith is also of little love. —Erich Fromm (1900-1980)

**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](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

**SUNDAY** ..... 10 AM  
**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** ..... 7 PM

**MERLIN'S MUSINGS:** They 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/>

**OUR PLACE**

As we reopen our doors to welcome our family members back to Our Place, at 919 Pandora, we find ourselves in need of toiletries – ( hotel size shampoo, soap, skin lotions, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouth wash, dental floss, deodorant, safety razors, shaving cream, band aids, sun screen.) Thank you for your continuing generosity to the Our Place Family. Items can be dropped off at 919 Pandora Ave, 7 days per week at Reception.

Over the course of this week we have received news from a couple of parishioners that they have lost family members living abroad, to the Coronavirus. We keep these families, and others affected by the virus, in our prayers at this time. We pray especially for the repose of the souls of Esperanza Benitez Higuera and Kamal Akeed Alraban.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, August 1st**

2:30-3:15pm Reconciliation

4:00pm Mass: **Bruni Family +**

**SUNDAY, August 2nd**

9:00am Mass: **Joan Blatch McLaverty +**

**MONDAY, August 3rd**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, August 4th**

9:00 am Mass: **Esperanza Benitez Higuera +**

**WEDNESDAY, August 5th**

9:00am Mass: **Hilary Ribeiro & Jose Pacheco +**

**THURSDAY, August 6th**

9:00am Mass: **No Intention**

**FRIDAY, August 7th**

9:00 am Mass : **No Intention**

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**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*

*The church will not be open for private prayer after mass from August 4th-August 11th.*



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

**COLLECTION for July 26, 2020**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

<b>Envelopes/Canada Helps</b>	\$ 5,339.00
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	\$ 1,452.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,791.00</b>