



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - February 12th, 2023

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's continuation of the Sermon on the Mount contains twenty long verses about what has been heard in the past and what is to be listened to now. Jesus is not spinning the Law and the traditions passed on through the prophets. He is applying a proper spirit to what had become too legalistic. In a sense, the dictates of the "law" were for the head to inform or guide the five senses. The spirit of Jesus is to form the heart as well as the mind. We may be taken aback by the demanding way in which Jesus interprets a few of the Ten Commandments in today's Gospel passage. He does not simply recall them. He does more than that. He radicalizes them. Why is Jesus so blunt when it comes to the Ten Commandments? Why will he not hear of abolishing them? Why does he go so far as to radicalize them? For Jesus, *they are meant to serve, to protect, and to promote the sacredness of human life and the sacredness of relationships. It seems to me that is what we must rediscover about the Ten Commandments. As if to illustrate the seriousness and the lasting validity of the 10 commandments, Jesus is not satisfied with simply reiterating them. He goes to the very core of them, and he shows us what area of human conduct is covered by them. There is no hair-splitting here, on the contrary he goes beyond the letter of the law, and he uncovers the basic intent of the law.*

When Jesus extends the law in his Sermon on the Mount, he's not doing it to make life harder than it already is. Jesus builds a fence around the law, as the rabbis phrase it. He tells us that the road to murder begins on the path of anger; adultery's highway has an entrance ramp from lust. God's laws are designed, after all, with your happiness and user-satisfaction in mind. It's not easy being a Christian, and it shouldn't be. Jesus' words about the gravity of anger and adultery are meant to take us more deeply into our own hearts to examine not only how well we keep rules and laws but to be sure that we understand that merely "looking good" to others is not the same as being good or doing good—and it is the latter that matters to God.

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you. The readings this week exhort us to keep the commandments but also tell us that doing so is not as simple as it may first appear. Fortunately, scripture gives us guidance in the sometimes-complex call to "follow the law of the Lord." Rule number one: Realize you have a choice. God sets before you "fire and water," Sirach says—life and death, good and evil. You will get what you choose. God is not going to compel you one way or the other. Number two: It's about more than only following the rules. We hear Jesus say that the key to keeping the commandments is the state of your inner self. When it comes to the things of God, the important direction is inside-out, not outside-in. Rule number three is the good news: You can lean on God's wisdom. "Immense is the wisdom of the Lord." God sees all and understands all, and though that wisdom is mysterious, it is revealed to all who love God, Saint Paul says. If you love, you will follow the ways of God from the bottom of your heart. God is already with us forever; we just need to ask for the ability to know we are in God's presence. God is not hiding; we just choose not to see!

Blessings,
Fr. William

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

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LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish at 11am Sunday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

St. Joseph the Worker Council would like to invite you to a three evening **Lenten Workshop on Centering Prayer**. The dates are Wednesday March 1st, 8th and 15th from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in St. Joseph the Worker church hall.

John of the Cross taught that interior silence is the place where the Spirit secretly anoints the soul and heals our deepest wounds.

Centering Prayer can help us slow down and recognize God in our lives and hopefully strengthen our relationship with Him. Please reply to this opportunity (kofc13356@gmail.com) and let us know if you are interested in getting more information or wish to sign up.

Holy Cross 40th Anniversary Celebration

This is the **last call** for tickets for the 40th Anniversary Celebration dinner. If you want your name on the waitlist please contact the office **not later than** noon Tuesday, February 14th. 250-477-5321

Visitor this weekend and learning opportunity

Fr. William will be away this weekend as he will be celebrating Mass at the Cathedral. We will be welcoming Fr. Ken Forster, OMI, for both the 4pm and the 9am Masses. Fr. Forster, a Missionary Oblate who was one of the founding Oblate Missionaries serving in Kenya, will also be doing a presentation in the hall following the 4pm Mass on Saturday. Those who want to know more about the Oblate Kenyan Mission are invited to the hall for a presentation by Fr. Ken. There will be an opportunity to enjoy a time together, watch a YouTube, listen, ask questions and celebrate twenty-five years of great partnership with the poor.

Memories

The period covered by the facts for the "PAST" start in 1979 thru Fr. Jackson's retirement in September 1985. He received the title of Founding Pastor following his retirement.

The first Pastoral Team as a "Parish" was comprised of Fr. Jackson, Sister Patricia McMahon, O.L.C., and Jean Laturus.

Holy Cross was not the first choice of the name of our Parish. . . it was among the top five. The first choice was Holy Family as voted by parishoners. The Diocese decided on Holy Cross.

The first Parish Council Chair was Alex McAuley who served for a portion of the year followed by Alan Bailey for the balance. Subsequent terms were filled by Bernard McHugh, Alastair Maclsaac and Catherine Hawkins.



Library Corner

February 23 is the memorial of St. Polycarp (69-155), one of the **Apostolic Fathers**, Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey), and who was a disciple of St John the Apostle (died aged 100), with St Irenaeus (130-202?) in turn being a disciple of Polycarp. They amongst others, begin the long line of successive, authentic witnessing of the life and message of Jesus, across the continents and down through the ages — from those who have seen to "those who are blessed who have not seen" that is, us here today.

The Apostolic Fathers were core Christian theologians among the Church Fathers who lived in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, who are believed to have personally known some of the Twelve Apostles, or to have been significantly influenced by them. Their writings, though widely circulated in Early Christianity, were not included in the canon of the New Testament.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polycarp>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irenaeus>

<https://aleteia.org/2016/06/27/10-inspiring-quotes-from-saint-irenaeus/>

Prayer Reflection

Nobody has a more sacred obligation to obey the law than those who make the law.

—Sophocles

The glory of Christianity is to conquer by forgiveness.

—William Blake

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 12, 2023

No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.” If you feel you are being invited to spread the Good News of God's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** hayre@rcdvictoria.org

PLEASE NOTE! The Church will be closed this coming week

from Monday February 13th until end of day Friday, February 17th to allow for the abatement of asbestos in limited areas of the church followed by the repair of these areas. **Mass on Tuesday and Thursday** will be held at **9am at St. Patrick's Church**. If **this work takes longer than expected** Mass on Saturday February 18th will be held at St. Patrick's at 4pm. An email will be sent out informing you of the progress to repairs. Please stay tuned!

NB: There will be no entry to the Church allowed while this work is in progress.

Extra Lenten Prayer

Are you interested in extra prayer time through lent? Please join us in the Mercy chapel after the morning masses for 10 minutes of intercessory prayers. we can pray for our families, friends, neighbours, the needs of the world, our enemies. Put a list together if you like. No petition is too small or too unworthy.

Called and Gifted Workbooks

There are some workbooks remaining from the Called and Gifted workshop that was held at Holy Cross Parish on February 4th. These are available in the office by donation as long as supply lasts.

God's love for us is Boundless

Holy Cross/St. Patrick's Parish Lenten Mission

Mona Goodman facilitating

Coming March 13th - 15th

Keep the dates! More information to follow.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, February 11th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Jess Narciso+

SUNDAY, February 12th

9am Mass: Adolfo Salamanca Barrientos+

MONDAY, February 13th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, February 14th

9am Mass: Paul MacKian+ at St. Patrick's Parish

WEDNESDAY, February 15th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, February 16th

9am Mass: Peter Murtagh+ at St. Patrick's Parish

FRIDAY, February 17th

NO MASS

The Church will **NOT** be open for private prayers this week as there will be ongoing work in the church.

Adoration in the Mercy Chapel - 9am First Friday of the Month

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if

COLLECTION for Feb. 5th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS	
Envelopes	\$ 8,927.00
Loose	\$ 444.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	<u>\$ 1,345.00</u>
TOTAL	\$10,716.00

Thank you Corner

Thanks to the many hands involved in preparations and hospitality for the Called and Gifted Workshop - the gift of your time and talent was amazing!

Thanks also to those continuing with the 40th Anniversary preparations!

News from the Diocese

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released four Pastoral Letters – to the First Nations, the Métis, the Inuit, and the People of God. The Bishops of Canada decided to write these letters after being updated on discussions with Indigenous partners during their plenary meeting last September. They outline a set of specific commitments which are meant to guide local reconciliation.

A post about the letters and the upcoming Seeds of Reconciliation workshops has also been added to the Diocesan website at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/that-we-may-walk-together>

The Diocese of Victoria is searching for dynamic individuals for the roles of Director of Faith Formation & Evangelization, Principal of Queen of Angels School in Duncan, and Principal of St. Andrew's Regional High School in Victoria. The job postings may be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Applications for the Director of Faith Formation & Evangelization position must be received by March 3, 2023; applications for the Principal positions will be accepted until the positions are filled.

Catholic Scripture Study: The Story of Redemptive Suffering

Jesus' Passion: The Story of Redemptive Suffering examines the Scriptural basis of Mel Gibson's movie, The Passion of the Christ, and looks at how this powerful portrayal of the suffering and death of Jesus relates to the Bible and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Each lesson includes a short introduction, reprinted biblical texts, study and reflection questions, Points to Ponder commentary, Catechism Connections, as well as a summary and quotes from canonized saints and recent popes.

The coil-bound Study Guide for Jesus' Passion: The Story of Redemptive Suffering contains the written commentary for 5 lessons and includes questions for each lesson. The course will be offered in-person at St. Andrew's Parish Centre at 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons beginning on Ash Wednesday. It will also be available online via zoom meetings on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. To register or ask any questions please email det.oconnor@gmail.com. The course book costs \$25.

News from the Catholic Students' Association

Come and join us for Movie Night at Multifaith Centre located at UVic. Date: February 15, 2023, time: 6:30-9pm. Shared snacks are always provided. The documentary focuses on the adaptable relationship between humans and the environment filmed in a South African kelp forest. All are welcome! Our monthly mass and meal will be held on February 18, 2023, at Holy Cross. Mass is celebrated at 4pm, followed by a FREE chilli dinner with a guest speaker from GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together). All are welcome to attend, bring your friends. The documentary and our guest speaker's themes directly relate to Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*. See you there!

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 (after hours)

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistants: Phil & Sheila Wall

250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

University Chaplain: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

spchsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

The **Social Concerns Office (SCO)** at [833 View Street](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/333-view-street) in Victoria will be starting their **Income Tax Program** in March, and are in need of volunteers.

This will require 6 volunteers a day, Monday to Friday from 8:45 am to 12:00 noon, for the months of March, April and May. These are the volunteer roles: **Greeter, Tax Screener, Tax Filer** Contact Helen Ong Office: 250.727.0007, ext. 3222 Email: hong@svdpvictoria.com

Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Tony Southwell at (250) 477-5738 to register.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS:

If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from our VGH/RJH hospital chaplain, please call the emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.