



# 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 - February 14, 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

If you think Quarantine is hard on relationships now...imagine if you had leprosy in biblical times? The most isolating form of illness in Jesus time was leprosy (Hanson's disease) and lepers had to live apart isolated for community. The person who suffered from leprosy was called in some circles the "son of death." "Because of the danger of contamination, and because they were officially declared unclean, lepers lived in segregated areas. Ostracism was the religious response to the marks of sin. This had all sorts of ramifications. They could not enter Jerusalem, the holy city. Out of desire to protect their own health, none would encounter them. They were forbidden to bring offerings to the temple and to pray for their healing, because the sacred place was for the healthy: the clean. Above all else, they certainly could not contaminate this holy place, for how could anyone who lived under the curse of God dare to come into God's presence in the temple.

But look what happens when a leper, in desperation, breaks through all the social and religious conventions and throws himself at the feet of Jesus! How does Jesus react? The Gospel says: "Jesus was moved with pity." Jesus touches the leper: an immensely warm gesture; yet one that gives you cold shivers to think about. "Of course, I want to", Jesus says. "Be cured." It is an echo of that beautiful creation word that must have been like music in the empty world of the leper." By touching the leper, and by recklessly ignoring the danger of being contaminated, Jesus flatly contradicts the religious people who believed in the fallacy that a leper lives under the curse of God. With that gesture, Jesus underlines his will to heal and God's will to bring life and salvation. By sending the cured man to the priests who were defenders of the true faith, Jesus puts an end to the religious fallacy that the temple, God's abode among people, would have no room for wounded and hurting people.

What today's Gospel passage leaves us with is an uncomfortable question: "Do the lepers of our time find a welcome among us who may pride ourselves on being disciples of Jesus?" We would like to think we are more civilized now, that we do not insist that our modern lepers just cover themselves up and go away. Regretfully the homeless, the mentally ill, and addicts and unemployed and desperate unseemly others that fall through the tears in our social fabric, are all still there tempting us to see them as unfit for our society and possibly for God's. We still mix sin and suffering together in our minds and presume with Job's "friends" that he has somehow called down all this misery on himself. Jesus never approached an outcast with any kind of moral assessment. He saw the mark of suffering, and he willed it—not the person—to disappear. In the New Testament, forgiveness gets a whole new spin.

Dear friends, the words of the leper who approached Jesus--"if you wish, you can make me clean"--could be those of anyone of us in need of love in this time of isolation and loneliness? We are all in need of healing and Jesus touch and we can also give it to others in these difficult days. Lent begins next week. We have some resources at office and in church for you to pray your way through Lent.

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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**Effective Immediately:** As per the latest health protocols given to us by our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, all in-person faith gatherings have been suspended until further notice. That means all weekend and weekday Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9am-1pm for private prayer; please sit on chairs on left side only. Thank You!

### **SPECIAL MASS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

**Special Mass** in honour of all **Health Care Workers:** Are you delivering care and services to the sick and ailing throughout the pandemic? Are you a nurse or doctor, community health aide, pharmacist, specialist, or any other of our critical health care workers? Are you a member of the clergy, religious, or a hospital, extended care or homebound visiting minister? Please **save the date** for a **Special Mass** in honour of all health workers courageously providing care throughout the pandemic. Join Bishop Gary Gordon virtually at **7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral, via the RCD Victoria live stream link:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne> on **Friday, March 19, 2021**, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the Patron Saint of Canada.

### **PASTORAL TRAINING OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Pastoral Training Outreach sessions to be offered on-line in the future:** For several years the Diocese has offered training sessions for Pastoral Care Ministry volunteers who wish to visit the lonely, homebound, sick, injured, elderly, and dying, in hospitals, extended health care facilities, or at home. As we look to the future, and the opportunity to train more Lay Pastoral Care visitors to help share the message of Christ's healing love and compassion with those in need, plans are being made to offer the training sessions on-line. The Diocesan Health Care Committee continues to explore ways to respond, support and minister to health care concerns of those in need. More details on the virtual sessions will follow in the weeks ahead.

### **MT ST. MARY HOSPITAL, HANGING BASKETS AND LIFE EXPECTANCY CHARTS**

For me it is 50/50 that I last another 5 YEARS. That means another 250 hanging baskets and about \$25,000 for the hospital. BUT EXTRA if you include my tomatoes, geraniums and the like. I am happy to say I have already received indications of support and am busy getting ready for the planting of seeds (why not, can't go away anyway!!!)

So please phone with your requests so that I can be sure things will be available for you.

Ellis...250 477 6754 or eachtem@shaw.ca



### **LIBRARY CORNER**

Reading the Psalms for Lent:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/23>

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=9748>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/51>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/32>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/102>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/130>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/143>

### **LENTEN PRAYER RESOURCES**

There are prayer booklets for the Lenten season available to pick up from the office during office hours Tuesday to Friday, 9am-2pm. There are three to choose from. If you are unable to come pick them up please call or email the office and we will mail it to you.



**For those asking, tax receipts will be printed later next week, and sent out in the mail. If you want to pick yours up in the office please let us know in advance.**

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

The things that we love tell us what we are.  
—Saint Thomas Aquinas

Without being forgiven, released from the consequences of what we have done, our capacity to act would, as it were, be confined to a single deed from which we could never recover; we would remain the victims of its consequences forever.  
—Hannah Arendt

Jesus confirms and corroborates what the leper had said and . . . does not merely answer, 'Be made clean.' . . . He verifies the truth glimpsed by the man . . . .  
—Saint John Chrysostom

**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

**Diocesan BLOG:** Please find the most recent and past Diocesan blog posts here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/>

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

This year Fr. William is encouraging everyone to participate in Bishop Gary Gordon's livestreamed Ash Wednesday mass on February 17th. You can access this mass via the link: [www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

**THANK YOU CORNER**

We really need to take a minute and acknowledge the great work done by our Responsible Ministry Coordinator, Martha Oleson. The amount of hours, and effort she has put in over the last few years has been outstanding, and we truly owe our organization and integrity in this aspect of parish life totally to her. After 6 years, Martha is stepping down from this position and handing over the reins to Joanie Bidlake. We thank Martha for her dedication to our parish, and to her role in this ministry. We have been truly blessed.

**LIVESTREAM MASSES**

**Live Mass broadcast this Saturday!** Mass will be broadcast from **St. Patrick's Parish on Saturday, February 13 at 4pm on the YouTube page.** Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, February 13th**

Intention: Albert Amiani +

**SUNDAY, February 14th**

Intention: Harold Grey +

**MONDAY, February 15th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, February 16th**

Intention: Dorothy Maclsaac +

**WEDNESDAY, February 17th**

Intention: Charyl Fields +

**THURSDAY, February 18th**

Intention: Saroj Aurora +

**FRIDAY, February 19th**

Intention: Nan Austin +

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*Please note that until February 5th all Masses will be temporarily suspended. Father William will continue to live-stream one Mass per week.*

*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.*



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

**COLLECTION for February 7, 2021**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

Envelopes	\$1,000.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,677.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,677.00</b>

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥