



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - February 19th, 2023

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

I would not be surprised if a good number of us had become increasingly more uncomfortable, if not impatient, with the Gospel passages of the last few Sundays. Remember three Sunday's ago: the Beatitudes: nice, very inspirational, but not exactly realistic. Two Sunday's ago: Jesus said "if we let our lifestyle be shaped by the Beatitudes, then we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world." I am not sure we want to be that noticeable as Christians. Last Sunday, Jesus did not want to hear of getting rid of the Ten Commandments. On the contrary, he radicalized them. Today, he tops it all off, and he becomes even more incredible when he says: "You must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect," If that is not the straw that breaks the camel's back, what is? The summons to be perfect sounds exhausting. But the one place where our performance still counts for *everything* is the summons to love. Love God. Love neighbor. And prove it.

It is important for us to realize that today's Gospel passage, like that of the previous three Sunday's, is part of the Sermon on the Mount. That Sermon on the Mount serves as the charter or the constitution for Christian living. It provides us with a rough outline of a Christian lifestyle. It is not exactly human common sense or human wisdom that is its source of inspiration; no, God's **wisdom** is at the root of it. And part of divine wisdom is that at times it can look rather foolish, even offensive, to human reason. Today's Gospel passage is a good example.

Jesus wants to inject a new element into our way of relating with each other. Is it not true that in most instances we let the way we relate to others be shaped by what I would call the model of scales: you scratch my back; I'll scratch yours. It is all very proper, very civilized. The trouble with this way of relating is that nothing new ever happens; we remain imprisoned by the law of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. What Jesus summons us to is that we break through that uncreative way of relating to each other. "Why should we?" we might ask. What is the cause for which we are asked to do something so foolish as to offer no resistance to evil? For Jesus, it is all in view of the Kingdom of God in the human situation. The Kingdom of God, that is what Jesus lived and died for; that is what he was raised from the dead for. That kingdom will never be ushered in unless, as disciples of Jesus, as Kingdom men and women, as young people, we perform kingdom actions.

For the Kingdom of God to be ushered into our world, something more, something new, is required. For this world of ours to be made new, the humanly impossible is necessary. It requires gestures of reconciliation and peace making that seem to run counter to common sense and prudence. It is not enough simply to keep anger, hostility and suspicion in check. To act in the direction of the suggestions made by Jesus in today's Gospel may make us look foolish by human standards. And yet, to act like this, even occasionally, even in situations and relationships, is to be momentarily good as God is good. Ready for the desert?

Strive for love in word and deed,

Father 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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. 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.

Participate in the **United for Old Growth March and Rally** on Sat. Feb. 25 (noon to 3:30)!

This is a peaceful, fun and spectacular event organized by 4 environmental groups, endorsed by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and by over 190 organizations representing faith groups, businesses, tourism operators, educators, health professionals, unions and more – all standing up to protect BC's remaining old-growth forests. Among them is GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together, of which Holy Cross and St. Pat's are members). The march begins at noon at Centennial Square, and the rally in front of the Legislature is from 1:30 to 3:30. David Suzuki and Indigenous leaders are featured speakers. You can participate in all or part of the event. Click here for more info, or contact Yvonne Hsieh at yhsieh@uvic.ca.

Coldest Night of the Year Walk. Fr. William and Nancy Stuart have started a Holy Cross/St. Patrick's - walking together Team for this year's walk on Feb. 25. Please consider either walking with us or donating to this worthy cause. Click here to join or donate <http://walk.w-ith.us/twinparishes> Proceeds go to Our Place and your support will help the homeless and hungry in our community.

Memories

I taught the grade 2 Catechism class and later the grade 5 class when we actually had the classes in the little house that was on the other side of the driveway after the 9 AM Mass in the early years of our new church building. Hugh Saville was head of the program, and he recruited me. It was from teaching Catechism that I realized I really loved teaching! I remember that Hugh wrote one of my references to UVic. So, I enrolled at UVic to finish the degree requirements and went on to become a successful high school teacher.....all because I taught Catechism!

Martha Oleson



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

Teach us to give and not to count the cost.
—*Ignatius of Loyola*

The only gift is a portion of thyself.
—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 19, 2023 “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Do you feel called to help people get closer to God? If you think God is calling you to be 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

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church on Fridays at 9am during Lent. Fr. William will lead the first one on Friday, February 24th. An invitation is extended to all to attend, and for the following groups to lead throughout the Season of Lent: March 3rd—Lectors; March 10th—Ushers; March 17th—Refugee Committee; March 24th—Development and Peace; March 31st—office staff. Stations of the Cross resources will be available on Fridays in the Church for both leaders and attendees.



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

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.

God's love for us is Boundless

Holy Cross/St. Patrick's Parish Lenten Mission
Mona Goodman facilitating

Monday, March 13 @ 7:00 pm Holy Cross Parish

Turn from Sin

Tuesday, March 14 @ 7:00 pm St. Patrick's Parish

Surrender to Love

Wednesday, March 15 @ 7:00 pm Holy Cross Parish

followed by Penitential Service

Be the Light of Salvation

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, February 18th

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Peter Murtagh+

SUNDAY, February 19th

9am Mass: Peter Murtagh+

MONDAY, February 20th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, February 21st

9am Mass: Peter Murtagh+

ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22nd

7:30am Mass: Aaron Hibbard+

Brian Wall+

7:00pm Mass: Patrick and Mary Hann+

THURSDAY, February 23rd

9am Mass: Conor McCaughey+

FRIDAY, February 24th

9am: Stations of the Cross

The Church will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon

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 you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.

COLLECTION for Feb. 12th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 3,715.00
Loose	\$ 315.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,345.00
Benefaction Donation	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL	\$6,575.00

Thank you Corner

Thank you to Trudy for replacing ailing office staff this week! Thank you for your time and talent juggling all the needs in the office as well as 40th Anniversary ticketing!

News from the Diocese

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have released four pastoral letters outlining a set of commitments meant to guide local reconciliation with First Nations. These and information regarding 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.

Bishop Gary Gordon's Ash Wednesday message may be viewed at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-ash-wednesday-2023-message>.

CCCB has identified four **charities** that are well positioned in the region to respond to the devastating **earthquake** in Turkey and Syria. They invite the faithful to donate to any one of these organizations:

Aid to Church in Need – Canada: <https://bit.ly/acn-donate-syria> or 1-800-585-6333 Ext 228

Canadian Jesuits International: <https://canadianjesuitsinternational.ca> or 1-800-448-2148

Catholic Near East Welfare Association – Canada: www.cnewa.ca or 1-866-322-4441

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada: www.devp.org or 1-800-494-1401

World Wide Marriage Encounter is hosting a weekend retreat April 14-16, 2023 in Kamloops. For more information and to register please visit the Behold Vancouver website: <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/virtual-worldwide-marriage-encounter-8#overview> Registration closes Mar 28, 2023

Catholic Scripture Study: The Story of Redemptive Suffering 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 email det.oconnor@gmail.com. The course book costs \$25.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Retreat: Retreat Master: SK Deacon Philip Yuson

Theme: Loving God: Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with Your God

The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council & Bishop Demers Assembly invite all Knights (their brothers, sons, and grandsons) to attend this Retreat at Sacred Heart Parish, Saturday, March 18 from 10 am to 3 pm. A light lunch will be offered. Confessions from 3 to 4 p.m. and Holy Mass from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. To attend in person, please call SK Dr. Oscar Perez de Tagle at 778-265-0013; or email at perezdetagleoscar@gmail.com. The Retreat will also be live streamed. The link will be provided to member Knights of Greater Victoria through the District Deputy.

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 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

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil will be held February 22 to April 2nd. Visit 40daysforlife.com/Victoria_BC for more information.

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.