



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 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

How do we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ? What words, thoughts, or actions do we use to tell others about a loving, generous God who “heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds”? It is such an important message to tell at this time as we face “Covid exhaustion”. Many people are cut off from their families and communities, from the human voice and the human touch; our hearts need to know that God is ‘great and abundant in power and God’s understanding is beyond measure’.

In the 1st Reading St. Paul tells us that we are “entrusted with a commission” to proclaim the Gospel, a directive that is more important than our personal rights for we are Disciples of Christ. We have an obligation to proclaim the good news for the spiritual well-being of those who have ears to hear and for the greater glory of God.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us to listen to God’s voice above all else. He has been healing the sick and casting out demons. News spreads quickly and people come to him to be freed from their afflictions. Jesus wants to free us from our infirmities and knows that we need both a physical and a spiritual release in order to open our hearts to hear God’s will for us.

Jesus knows the endless need for healing, and he goes out alone to pray, to reflect and listen to his Father’s voice. Taking time with God through prayer enables us to reconnect with God’s will for our lives, to focus on God alone and not the competing voices that pull us away from our true calling. Healing is an important part of his calling, yet Jesus knows he is called to proclaim God’s message through the healing.

The healing of Simon’s mother-in-law seems like such a simple healing and almost self-serving when she is healed and continues to serve them like she always has, yet there is more to this story than meets the eye. She has a fever, a debilitating symptom that could quickly lead to death, especially in the pre-penicillin world (sound familiar with Covid and our need for a vaccine?). Jesus “*came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.*” Let’s take a closer look at Jesus’ actions as he enters the house after teaching and performing an exorcism in the synagogue. He’s exhausted! Yet without hesitation, Jesus goes to her. He touches her, taboo in a culture between non family members and the opposite sex. And Jesus ‘lifted her up’ or ‘raises her up’ as some translations say. Jesus does all this then the fever leaves her and she begins to serve. If it was just about a healing, that would be the end of it, but this is about fulfilling a call, our call to do God’s will.

Jesus’s gospel message is a call to discipleship. Through this healing, Jesus brings fulfillment, an immediacy, a directive to serve rather than to be served. Jesus releases Simon’s mother-in-law of her illness and restores her to her community so she can fulfill her call to serve and offer hospitality and sustenance to others. His gentle touch brings healing, a soothing release. His physical touch also portrays a call to be family in a new way, as we come together as the body of Christ. The call to be ‘lifted up, raised up’ is the call of forgiveness, mercy, reconciliation, transformation, resurrection, and eternal life with God.

Jesus seeks his Father and asks, ‘what is your will for me?’ As we seek Jesus, what healing needs to take place so we are able to live into our call to build up God’s kingdom? Our *responsibility* is our *response* to the *abilities* God has given us to bring about God’s kingdom.

In God’s abundance, Mona

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

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!

JOSEPH B. JACKSON UVIC BURSARY AND HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMOSUN BURSARY

Our Bursaries continue unabated during the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is with pride that we review the incredible impact of the generosity of Holy Cross Parishoners. There is approximately \$350,000. of capital in the Bursaries from which currently ten or so Awards are made each year. The Bursaries were established in 1988 and 1989 in honour of the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the Priesthood of our founding Pastor, Father Joseph Jackson. Each year we receive heart warming thank you notes from a number of the recipients. In her thank you note, Branwyn writes that she is looking forward to "giving back" once her programs are complete. Her plans are to assist low income individuals in accessing government benefits when they are unable to provide proof of income. She has been inspired by the assistance she has received from our Bursary and when she was a student of Fr. William's at Queen of Angels many years ago.
-Tony Southwell, for the Bursaries Program



WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter virtual weekend experience is coming to you!
February 26-28, 2021 & May 14-16, 2021

If you desire to restore communication & rekindle romance, this weekend is for you; no travel required and from the comfort of your own home!

Click here for registration: <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/virtual-worldwide-marriage-encounter-5>

Click here for info video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvQUEZ35Ufg&feature=youtu.be>

EXPLORE POPE FRANCIS' SOCIAL ENCYCLICAL, FRATELLI TUTTI

In "Fratelli tutti" Pope Francis underlines that in our common home we all live as one family, and proposes concrete actions to restore the world. **Every Thursday beginning February 18th from 7:30-8:30pm via a Zoom Webinar.** During this Lenten series, Diocesan Leaders will creatively break open "Fratelli Tutti" for all. Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cP_ElltThCp9uUIQncMDA After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

JOB OPPORTUNITY - EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking an experienced and reliable full-time Executive Assistant to support the Bishop and Chancellor by providing comprehensive administrative support in a professional, courteous and efficient manner. The ideal candidate is highly self-motivated, professional, and capable of managing their workload and prioritizing tasks to ensure optimal workflow. For more information and a full job description please visit the website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment> or call the parish office.

NOTE ON MASSES

Dr. Bonnie Henry has announced that until further notice restrictions on faith gatherings will remain in place. Therefore, we will continue with our live-streamed Masses alternating between Holy Cross and St. Patrick's for location. We look forward to the time when we can meet in person again, but for now we will do our best to protect each other and those around us by following the Provincial Health Orders.

PRAYER REFLECTION

Healing yourself is connected with healing others.
—Yoko Ono
Rightly is my hope strong in Him, who sits at Thy right hand and intercedes for us . . . For many and great are my infirmities, many and great; but Thy medicine is of more power.
—Saint Augustine of Hippo

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

Diocesan BLOG: Please find below the link to the latest blog post "Our Church of Many Faces" by Liz Summers featuring Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria.

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/come-and-see-the-holy-spirit-at-work>

THANK YOU CORNER

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who have take the time to distribute many of our 2021 collection envelopes. We are grateful for this support during a time when it is difficult for people to come to the parish centre to pick the envelopes up on their own.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, February 6 at 4pm on the YouTube page.** Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

CONTACT TRACING - New Procedure

We have new contact tracing forms in the church foyer as well as the office. Anyone entering the church or the office now has to sign in. This allows us to be able to contact you if there has been someone that has used the space that has come into contact with COVID-19. This is an extra safety guard we are implementing to help keep people in our community safe. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT'S SCHOOL

It's Catholic Schools Week at St. Patrick's and they've been doing a lot to celebrate the occasion, including allowing five student administrators to take the helm for a day! <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/4038386572890772>



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, February 6th

Intention: Maglene Peries +

SUNDAY, February 7th

Intention: Matthew Kratchmer +

MONDAY, February 8th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, February 9th

Intention: Dorothy Maclsaac +

WEDNESDAY, February 10th

Intention: Fred Schemitsch +

THURSDAY, February 11th

Intention: Jack Connor +

FRIDAY, February 12th

Intention: Kevin Pendergast +

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 January 31, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$1,055.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,677.00
TOTAL	\$2,732.00

