

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 - January 31, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1
In Mark's Gospel reading today, we learn two things. Jesus enters the synagogue to teach and he is able to perform miracles. In that time, Sabbath services were generally prayer, scripture readings and a teaching. One did not have to be an ordained minister to conduct services, so anyone with sufficient learning could be invited to teach. "He taught them as one having authority, not as the scribes". And they were astounded. The people were amazed by the power of Jesus' teaching and his power over the spiritual world. Jesus spoke with authority, but not with arrogance. He used few words or a simple act to emphasize his power. As Jesus began to perform miracles in Galilee, His fame spread throughout the region. Many people flocked to Him, some desiring to be healed, while others were simply curious. To the sick and afflicted he said "Your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34), emphasizing the role of the healed, rather than that of the healer.

In the other Gospels, the first miracle is turning water into wine. But in today's Gospel, Mark 1 21-28, we see that Jesus' first miracle is to rescue the man in the synagogue from the unclean spirits that tormented him. "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." Those gathered witnessed that the power of the spoken word was enough to heal the man. The word "miracle" comes from the Latin word for wonder which means "a sight to behold". Miracles are learning experiences and point us to something that God wants us to know or believe.

Jesus teaches us through his miracles. For us today, Jesus wants to free us from whatever burdens we are carrying and keeping us trapped, so that we may have deeper relationship with Him. Miracles also demonstrate the close relationship Jesus has with God, his Father. It is through the power of God that Jesus is able to perform miracles. Pope John Paul said "We believe this story because we have Faith. Faith precedes the miracle and indeed is a condition for its accomplishment. Faith is also an effect of the miracle, because it engenders faith in the souls of those who are its recipients or witnesses. It is known that faith is a human response to the word of divine revelation."

I don't think that any of those present at the synagogue that day knew what was about to unfold or the miracle that they were to witness. The story today shows us that with Jesus in our lives, anything is possible. Every day there is an opportunity and an invitation for Jesus to be in our lives, letting go of the reins and freeing ourselves to be won over by God's grace.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.
Psalms 143:8

Letting Jesus Take the Wheel,
Debby Pietaszek

OFFICE HOURS

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

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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 February 5th. 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!

COVID-19 VACCINES

Our province, country, and the world has begun the process of immunization for Covid-19. There are two useful resources attached to the email accompanying this bulletin, and online at: www.holycrossvictoria.org

1. Note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith regarding the morality of using some anti-Covid 19 vaccines.

AND

2. Letter to the faithful on vaccines from the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories:

In addition, the provincial government has provided the following links for more information:

To view the B.C. COVID-19 Immunization Plan PowerPoint, visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BC_COVID-19_Immunization_Plan.pdf

To learn more about B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/covidvaccine

For technical immunization information, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control online: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine

For more information on what to expect when you go to get vaccinated for COVID-19, visit: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Today marks the beginning of Catholic Schools' Week (CSW). The theme this year is *Walk with Jesus our Living Hope*. Each and every year, Catholic schools join together to share a message about the importance and value of Catholic education to the Church and society as a whole. For those that are not aware, there are five Catholic Schools in the Diocese (4 elementary and 1 high school) educating approximately 1400 students in the communities of Port Alberni, Duncan and Victoria. On behalf of all the Catholic schools in the diocese, thank you for your ongoing support whether that be through prayer, time, talent or treasure. This week also marks the beginning of registration time for the 2021-22 school year. Please consider registering your child in a Catholic school. Catholic Education is a valuable ministry in the Church and Diocese so we ask that you please continue to pray for their success.

FINAL APPEAL UPDATE

- \$65,208.44 pledged. This is 148% of our \$44,000 goal!
- 141 out of 498 households participated in this year's Appeal.

As a result of your generosity our parish will receive \$25,000 of which \$15,000 will be used to support our North Island Parishes. Thank you so very much for your participation and support of the Bishop's Appeal.

-The Appeal Team

PRAYER REFLECTION

At the time appointed, Christ came forth from the Father and showed himself in this external word, first as its creator, then as its teacher, the revealer of secrets, the mediator . . . and the express image of his person.
—John Henry Newman

To believe in the relevance of God is to believe in the presence of prophets among us who show the relevance of his word. To believe in the faithfulness of God and in his church is to believe that he will not let it fall asleep, be overwhelmed, lose its vigor and the dynamism of its hope.
—Jésus-Maria Asurmendi

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 Fr. William for opening the Church for private prayer during these challenging pandemic times. In the quiet of the sanctuary God's presence, solace and peace and our gratitude fill the entire Church. It is such a blessing to just be in Church, sit there and pray. Many thanks to our pastor!

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **St. Patrick's Parish on Saturday, January 30th 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.**

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, January 30th

No Mass

SUNDAY, January 31st

No Mass

MONDAY, February 1st

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, February 2nd

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, February 3rd

No Mass

THURSDAY, February 4th

No Mass

FRIDAY, February 5th

No Mass

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.

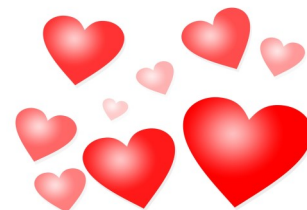


holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

COLLECTION for January 24, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$11,398.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$ 1,372.00 |
| TOTAL | \$12,770.00 |



The 2021 collection envelopes are available for pick up in the office during office hours Tuesday to Friday.