



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - July 16th, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The beautiful gardens in this city are stunning this time of year. Beautifully landscaped and a sight to behold. Comparing those gardens to the one Jesus describes in his parable of the sower raises a few questions. Most gardens I see are neat and well-defined. The earth has been carefully prepared, and each seed has been thoughtfully planted. There are no rocks, no weeds, but in today's parable the sower tosses seeds willy-nilly and doesn't seem to care where they land. The parable of the sower and the seed begs the question: Why does this fellow waste so much seed? When it comes planting time, a prudent gardener knows the soil and judiciously uses the seed. Yet, rocks, weeds, are all part of his garden. What could he be thinking? Maybe that's the difference between the way we do things, and the way God manages our world. There are lots of things we wouldn't allow if we were in charge of creation, but the Lord seems content to include everything. And his sense of order is far different from ours. We like everything neat and straight, while the Lord doesn't seem to have any edges. But what appears haphazard to us is the vast and infinite plan of a loving Creator.

Today's parable of the sower invites us not to discount the fact that a gracious God is also part of our world scene, and not as a threatening, a punishing, or a destructive God, but as a God who is generous to the point of being prodigal in the way he brings forth new life in our world. The seed of God is potent and sometimes the harvest is rich. What takes root in our lives bears fruit and can yield even a hundredfold. What this parable summons us to is to have faith in God who will not stand for it that our world, or our personal life stories will go to pieces. In it all, God summons us not to rely so much on our own strength, as if our salvation and that of the world depend on us; rather he wants to make us see that he himself has a stake in what happens to the world and to our own life stories. That's the power of God's word—both now and to come—and what creation does with that word.

God's been on message now for as long as there have been human beings to receive it. Does God get tired of having to repeat the same themes over and over in every new generation? Maybe not. Every day the sun comes up and goes down, and every day God says: Do it again! We've all got hearts that are not uniformly receptive to the great work of the Kingdom being sown in us. God, who never tires of the task at hand, keeps on cheerfully offering us opportunities for love, justice, peace, mercy, salvation. This joyous seed is scattered liberally through our days as we duck, shirk, refuse, and deny. Right now we may be too depressed for the good news of the Kingdom—or too busy, too scared, too needy, too tired, too sick, too outraged, too old, or too young. We may have as many excuses as there are seeds. Meanwhile the seeds rain down on all sides of us, right across our path as we try to make our way, a sleet of seeds behind us, and crunching under our feet with every step we take. We are enjoying summer now, maybe even complaining about the heat. The seeds of faith lay dormant and then spring to life in us over and again in the same way. Nature's way is God's way.

Sow and reap; Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm
Fr. William Hann, Pastor
4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC
V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org

***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.***

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146
To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

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>

Baptismal Prep Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a registration form and complete a Baptismal Preparation course. Please note that the next session for Baptismal Preparation is: Saturday, August 26 (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will email you a registration form.

Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250-477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org

The valuable and free **Pastoral Care Outreach Training series** will be offered online again this fall. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 23 and running until November 25, 2023 (with no session on October 7 for Thanksgiving). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection and access to Zoom. Whether you are a member of your parish Pastoral Care Team, an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, CWL or St. Vincent de Paul, clergy or religious, caring for a family member, or someone attending as a personal undertaking, this training program is important. It will show why those who visit the sick are unique and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Bishop Gary Gordon feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.” Please register through your local parish by September 12. For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca

St. Pat's/Holy Cross Picnic NEXT WEEKEND!



The twinned St. Patrick's/Holy Cross Parishes picnic will be held at Gyro Beach on Sunday, July 23rd from noon until 3pm. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be on the grill thanks to the Knights of Columbus, and there will be watermelon, chips and drinks. We hope to see you at this fun event!



The St. Andrew's International Student Program is in need of an additional host family for September 2023 for a female Chinese student, attending Grade 10 for the full school year. If you would be willing to support a young person on their international high school journey/ experience, please consider welcoming one of our international students into your family. Host families receive \$1,200 per month to cover costs. Please contact Nina Timm **ASAP** at: homestay@cisdv.bc.ca / Tel: 403-771-2519

Library Corner in Church Foyer

July brings us four notable commemorative feast days: July 3 --- St Thomas who doubted the word of his fellow apostles that Jesus had risen from the dead, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_the_Apostle ; July 11 --- St Benedict (480-548) whose rules for monastic life have been adopted in many monasteries since that time https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_of_Nursia ; July 25 --- St James whose gospel reminds us that “faith is shown by good works” (2:17-26) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_the_Great ; and July 29 --- Saints Martha & Mary where we observe Mary's adoration and Martha's employment, _



Prayer Reflection

Just as at sea those who are carried away from the direction of the harbor bring themselves back on course by a clear sign . . . so scripture may guide those adrift on the sea of life back into the harbor of the divine will.

—*Saint Gregory of Nyssa*

Once again the scriptures are a lodestar, a benchmark. . . . Going back to this mother lode of wisdom and knowledge, inspired by God, brings grace and further insight.

—*Megan McKenna*

Every moment and every event of every [person’s] life on Earth plants something in his soul.

—*Thomas Merton*

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore.

—*Saint Patrick*

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, July 15th

4PM Mass: Ciccone Family+

SUNDAY, July 16th

9AM Mass: Carmel Loader+

MONDAY, July 17th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, July 18th

9AM Mass: Noel and Janet Robertson+

WEDNESDAY, July 19th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, July 20th

9AM Mass: Noel and Janet Robertson+

FRIDAY, July 14th

NO MASS

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.

COLLECTION for July 9th 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 2,435.00

Loose \$ 380.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$1,096.00

Anawim for Men \$ 20.00

TOTAL \$3,931.00

Thank You!

Thank you to each of you who donated so very generously to the needs of the Ukrainian family! We are blessed to have such a giving community!



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 16, 2023 Let anyone with ears listen! Do you hear God’s call for you in your life? Have you considered the way of loving called "priesthood", “diaconate” or "religious life"? If God is calling you 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

Attention: all Holy Cross readers! The **Environmental Book Collection** currently displayed in the lobby **will be moved to St. Patrick's as of Sept. 1**. You have till the end of August to borrow and return books in this collection. Take advantage of this opportunity while there's still time!



Show Us Your Face, Lord: Catholic Retreat with Fr. Mark Cherry

Throughout Scripture, we see references to our longing to see the face of God. This longing is now fulfilled with the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In September, Fr. Mark Cherry, a retreat and mission speaker from Halifax, will lead a retreat in Victoria with the theme “Show Us Your Face, Lord” to bring us closer to Him.

The retreat will take place **September 29 – 30 (Friday evening and Saturday)** at St. Joseph the Worker Parish (753 Burnside Road W) with three talks, adoration and benediction, worship, a healing service and Mass. Confession will also be available. Space is limited. Early bird registration is \$35 before Aug 31st and \$45 as of Sep 1st. Lunch is not included – bring a bag lunch. To register, please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/showusyourface2023. For more information, email catholicretreat7@gmail.com or phone 250-383-7746.

August Bulletin

Please be aware that there will be no bulletin during the month of August.

News from the Chancery

1) On Saturday, July 8 2023, Joseph Yuson was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. A post has been added to the Diocesan website with photos from the ordination and a link to the recording of the livestream: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/congratulations-to-deacon-joseph-yuson>. Your prayers for Deacon Joseph and his intentions are appreciated as he marks this important milestone in his life.

2) This Saturday, July 15, is the deadline for outstanding students and educators to apply for bursaries and awards being offered by the Diocese of Victoria. More information and application forms are available at the following links:

The Jawl Bundon LLP Bursary (\$2500): for a grade 12 Catholic student who has been accepted to a post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to Indigenous students, and to students who live outside of Greater Victoria and Nanaimo.

The Blessed Marie Anne Blondin Bursary (\$1000): for a lay woman who is accepted or enrolled in a program or course for ministry in the Church, such as religious education, social justice, liturgy, social action, care of the sick, etc.

The Char Deslippe Memorial Award (\$500): for a teacher working in Island Catholic Schools or a parish catechist serving in children, youth, or adult ministry.

3) The Holy See has announced the delegates who have been appointed to attend the Synod 2021-2024 session this October in Rome. This is the first Synod where non-bishop members have been invited to participate; Canada's delegation consists of three lay people and a Religious Sister, as well as four bishops and a cardinal. For more information and the full list of North American delegates, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/north-american-delegates-to-the-october-2023-synod-session-announced>.

Pilgrimage to Mexico with Fr. Dean Henderson - February 23 - March 1, 2024

Fr. Dean Henderson will be leading a pilgrimage to Mexico in the new year. If you are interested in the details of this opportunity, please pick up an information sheet and registration form from the foyer.



Opus Dei Recollections for Men and Women:

An evening recollection for women will be held at **Our Lady of Fatima** Parish, 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Saanich, on **Monday, July 17th** from **7pm to 9pm**. It will be preceded by Mass at 6pm and confession at 6:30pm.

An evening recollection for men will be offered on **Tuesday, July 18th** at **Sacred Heart** Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Saanich from **6pm to 8pm**. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm.

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: Dan Taft

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk

hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org



Mass Times

Holy Cross Parish - Saturday 4pm,

Sunday 9am, Weekday Masses Tuesday and Thursday, 9am.

St. Patrick's Parish - Sunday 11am and 4pm.

Weekday Masses Wednesday and Friday 12:10pm.

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.