



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - July 23rd, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last week we had the wonderful story of the farmer who goes to sow seeds in the garden. This week, Jesus continues with another parable about seeds but with a different twist. The twist is that Jesus says good exists amidst the evil and we better learn to live with that creative tension. Today's Gospel touches on deep areas in the lives of all of us. The parable is saying that people who are filled with the vision and values of God and Jesus must learn to live side by side with a whole spectrum of people who, in varying degrees, do not yet share or live this vision and these values. This applies to differences between Christians and non-Christians but also within Christian communities themselves. We are - and always will be - broken people, prone to sin and failure. To pretend that we are anything else is a lie.

The readings this week invite us to be tolerant and to trust that God will reap a plentiful harvest even among the weeds. There were people in Our Lord's time who wanted him to separate the bad from the good as well. Among them were people who claimed the moral high ground, the Pharisees whose name means "the separated ones." Even John the Baptist expected Jesus to separate the cream from the skim, to have only holy people around him. That's precisely what Our Lord didn't do. He had all sorts of people around him, a rainbow coalition of people, the learned, the ignorant, the good-living, the bad-living, tax-collectors, prostitutes, the lot. What in God's name is he doing, they said. Why doesn't he get down to business? Why doesn't he weed them out?

As any gardener knows, weeding can be the greatest threat of all to the life of the young seedling. At first, the problem is one of identifying which is which. The weeds must be left until the seedling can be clearly recognised. Even then, removing the weeds may pose an even greater threat. It might sever the seedling's root system. Often the weed brings the seedling away with it. The parable of the weeds is starkly simple and yet widely ignored. To the question "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" the answer of Jesus is a categorical "No." And the reason is self-evident. Only God has eyes sufficiently discerning and fingers sufficiently gentle for this job. Weeding out is God's prerogative. Life would be so much better for everybody, if only we would leave it to him.

My dear friends, we too must imitate God's justice and mercy. *We must wait for God, long, meekly, in the wind and wet, in the thunder and lightning, in the cold and dark. Wait and he will come. He never comes to those who do not wait.* May that liberating power of living in the Spirit transform your groaning and deepest sighs into new beginnings where good seed falls on fertile soil and grow into plants that contribute to the beauty of the garden and the wider landscape, the world. Each of us has that talent freely given by God. We have received it to use it, not out of fear, but out of confidence and pride. Knowing that by our doing, God's kingdom of love can be brought a little bit closer and that makes the wider world and the beauty of the landscape a garden worth living and dying for. I leave for holidays this week. Be assured of my prayers as we enter the bliss of summer. May God bless you and may his love sow seeds of goodness, justice and mercy. This is World Day for Grandparents and the elderly who know all about planting seeds and weeding too. God bless our elderly!

Blessings
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](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146
To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.bishopreportingsystem.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

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>. Please note that this is the LAST livestream until September 9, 2023.

St. Pat's/Holy Cross Picnic THIS 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! Bring your own lawn chair, sunhat and appetite!



FUNDRAISER "THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW!" AUG 12 & 13 AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

Parishioners of Saanich Peninsula Parish will be putting on the "**Carol Burnett Show!**" at St. Elizabeth's church located at 10030 Third street (between Henry & Malavie) in Sidney.

2 Shows! Saturday August 12 at 7pm & Sunday August 13 at 2pm.

It features local talented actors, Kelly Vanderswan, Matt Watson, Chris Blackie, Roy Battilana and Melanie Ehrlich, 3 of whom are members of St. Elizabeth's church. Piano accompaniment by Joseph Shadian who is also a member of the church.

Join us for loads of laughs and fun as we showcase 4 hysterical sketch comedies from the timeless comedy show "The Howl & the Pussycat" "Alice Portnoy at the Hospital" "The Old Folks #4" and "Divorce American Style".



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

Housing Wanted

A UVic male Masters student, who is a roman catholic, mature, and clean, is seeking a studio apartment or a private bedroom with an attached bathroom in a house, starting from September 2023 until April 2024. It would be ideal if the accommodation is located on a direct bus route to the UVic campus. The maximum budget, including utilities, is \$1200. Suitable references will be provided upon request. Please contact Clinton Pereira at clintonpereira@uvic.ca or 778-861-1514. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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

The possibility [exists] that hope comes out of hopelessness and that the opposite of things carry the seeds of birth—love out of hate, good out of evil. Didn't flowers grow out of dirt?

—Robert Cormier

Celebrating the Eucharist as a remembrance of Christ means practicing God's justice towards neighbors, strangers, and enemies alike.

—Patrick T. McCormick

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

—Psalm 78:2-3

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, July 22nd

4PM Mass: Anania Family+

SUNDAY, July 23rd

9AM Mass: Carmel Loader+

MONDAY, July 24th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, July 25th

9AM Liturgy of the Word

(Marcia Thompson)

Liam Goodwin+

WEDNESDAY, July 26th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, July 27th

9AM Liturgy of the Word

(Tanya Taft)

Jeffery Ross+

FRIDAY, July 28th

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.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 23, 2023

“The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought...” For five minutes today rest with Jesus and ask Him what He requires of you. If God is calling you to become 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

Vacation

Please note that Father William will be away beginning July 25th. Visiting priests will celebrate Mass at the usual times on Saturdays and Sundays at both parishes during Father William's absence. Liturgy of the Word with Communion will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am at Holy Cross and on Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:10 at St. Patrick's Parish. Father William will be saying Mass in Newfoundland and offering the intentions requested by our parishioners on the weekdays.



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.

COLLECTION for July 16th 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 1,875.00
Loose	\$ 440.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,096.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 120.00

TOTAL \$3,531.00

Blessings on all the Grandparents of the parish this day and always!



News from the Chancery

- 1) This Sunday, July 23, is the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Day is "**His mercy is from age to age**" (Luke 1:50), highlighting the connection between the old and young. A number of resources are available online, including the Pope's message for the World Day, the official prayer, a catechesis written by Pope Francis, and a pastoral kit. To access these resources, please visit <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/eventi/2023/iii-giornata-mondiale-dei-nonni-e-degli-anziani.html>. Pope Francis has granted a Plenary Indulgence for those who take part in the Day; for more information, please visit <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-07/apostolic-penitentiary-plenary-indulgence-grandparents-day.html>.
- 2) Come join faith-filled families at the Marriage and Family Life Camp from August 17th-20th in beautiful Nanoose Bay. Our speaker is Paul Rossetti, the Superintendent for Island Catholic Schools. There will be activities for children and youth, as well as family time. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-diocesan-family-conference-august-2023-tickets-593430365197> or email familycamp@rcdvictoria.org. Please also consider volunteering!
- 3) Rachel's Vineyard will be hosting their first retreat on Vancouver Island from August 25-27, 2023 at the Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo (2371 Arbot Rd). This ministry is a safe place for people to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing. For information please contact Nicola at rachelsvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com
- 4) Worldwide Marriage Encounter Vancouver is offering a weekend marriage retreat this fall from Oct. 27-29, 2023. Rekindle the romance, remind yourselves why you fell in love and learn how to make a good marriage even better! Register before September 5 for the early bird rate. For more info and to register, please visit <https://beholdvancouver.org/events/couple-retreat-by-worldwide-marriage-encounter>. You both deserve it!
- 5) The Diocese of Nelson is seeking a part time Diocesan Appeals, Financial and Data Records Coordinator to provide support to their the Financial Services team at their Pastoral Centre in Kelowna, BC. For more information, please visit <https://www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/jobs/>. Applications must be received by July 31, 2023.

Attention: all Holy Cross readers!

The **Environmental Book Collection** currently displayed in the lobby **will be moved to St. Patrick's Parish 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!



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

hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Mass and Liturgy of the Word Summer Schedule

Holy Cross Parish

Mass Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9am

From July 25 - September 5, Liturgy of the Word with Communion - Tuesday and Thursday, 9am.

St. Patrick's Parish

Sunday Masses 11am and 4pm.

From July 25 - September 5, Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 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.