



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - March 12th, 2023

The Third Sunday of Lent

The Samaritan woman represents us. We meet a woman who was trying to discover her deepest truth, looking for acceptance, love and trust, rejecting that which fails to satisfy, and engaging Jesus, this Jewish man by the side of the well, in a faith dialogue about what true worship really means. This woman at the well - a woman without a name so she can stand for every woman (and hopefully for every man)- is a woman who thirsts for truth. She is a woman who longs for relationship (during all the forces of her culture at work against her, the most obvious being exclusion). The woman who finds herself in the company of Jesus at the well would not have mistaken him for a tangible aspect of the divinity, that's for sure. For one thing, he was a Jew, the enemy of her people. For another, he was a man, and she'd known several men. And yet this very worldly and world-weary woman can sense the divine spirit in a most unexpected place for two reasons: First, she asks the right questions, and second, she listens to the answers. The first response puts her in a rare category, and the other puts her above most of Jesus' own disciples.

It's instructive to note that even after participating in miracles, healings, and years of teaching, it took an event like the Transfiguration for the disciples to suspect that Jesus was more than he seemed. The Samaritan woman intuited this in a short conversation. Jesus didn't miraculously fill her bucket or take the pain out of her much-used heart. He did not even forgive her sins. He just talks to her. He talks about things that are directly relevant to her: water, relationships, God, and truth. He reveals his identity to her because she, as it turns out, has been seeking him all along. Jesus rarely meets anyone willing to look beyond religion to encounter its true purpose. Many Samaritans came to believe in Jesus because of the woman's witnessing. Then they asked him to stay with them, otherwise he would have continued on his journey. Jesus often needs to be invited to stay. Remember the two men walking to Emmaus? He would not have stopped if they had not invited him to stay the night. He stands at the door and knocks but he will not come in unless invited.

My dear friends, we are still a long way from the flowing waters of our Easter Celebrations. Over the next three weeks let us continue to be vigilant in fasting and prayer. Let us look within the places of our heart where we are thirsty for truth, for authentic love, for relationship, and for living water. When we reach out with compassion and acceptance to all people we too will find the grace to overcome what stands in the way of befriending and loving all the people in our lives. Jesus knows the deepest longing of our heart and like the woman at the well we too should be staggered at Jesus' insight into our life. He knocks on our hearts door and waits for the invitation. Proverbs 18:4 speaks of deep wisdom. *The words of the mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a gushing stream.*

Looking forward to seeing you at our Lenten Mission.

Blessings

Father William

PS And don't forget to spring ahead.



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 St Patrick's Parish at 11am Saturday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Did you know - Development and Peace-Caritas Canada is tackling the growing hunger crisis in **Somalia**. We are supporting projects promoting sustainable domestic food production in order to prevent future crises. Projects like these are essential in adapting to the growing effects of the climate crisis around the world. Please support the Share Lent collection on March 26 or consider becoming a monthly donor at devp.org.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church on Fridays at 9am during Lent. An invitation is extended to all to attend, and for the following groups to lead throughout the Season of Lent: 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.



REMEMBERING SOMEONE SPECIAL AT EASTER

The Arts and Environment Ministry Team welcome your donations for the Easter floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a loved one or a special occasion, please pick up a marked envelope in the foyer. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside, please drop it into the collection basket or drop it by the office. Thank you for your help in making this a beautiful celebration.

Children's Liturgy will be cancelled on March 26th for Spring Break and no Liturgy will run on Easter Sunday April 9th as children are invited to stay in the Church for Easter Mass.

ST PATRICK'S DAY IRISH DINNER - March 17, 2023 at St Patrick's (Our Lady of Lourdes Hall - doors open 5:30pm). Tickets \$20 per person - available after Sunday masses or at St Patrick's Parish Office. This is a fundraising event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League. Please join us!

This year's **Chrism Mass** will be held on **Thursday, March 30th at 7:00pm at St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo**. Father William would like a volunteer from the parish to receive the Oils that evening and bring them back to our Parish. These oils are presented to each Parish in the Diocese at this special Mass, and are used throughout the year for the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Baptism and Confirmation. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Fr. William.

For parishioners interested in attending the Chrism Mass who don't want to drive, Father William has five bus tickets. Please contact the office to reserve your seat on the bus. The bus will leave from the Pastoral Centre on Nelthorpe Street at 3:30. These bus tickets will be available for the next two weeks only. After that time, they will be released, so please call now if you wish to go by bus to this Mass. 250-477-5321.

Library Corner

March 17th is the Feast Day of St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland and celebrated (sometimes boisterously) all over the world (see first website) and March 19th, is the Feast Day of St Joseph, husband of Mary, and the Patron Saint of Canada, and of the Universal Church. Joseph is the seldom-mentioned, self-effacing shepherd who with angelic guidance (Matthew 1,18-2.23) shepherds his little family from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape Herod's Massacre of the Innocents, and later safely back to Nazareth.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Joseph



Prayer Reflection

God does not fit in an occupied heart.

—Saint John of the Cross

The words of the mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a gushing stream.

—Proverbs 18:4

Third Sunday of Lent - March 12, 2023

“But the one who drinks of the water that I will give will never be thirsty.” Do you thirst to know where God is leading you? Could you be thirsty for an understanding of your purpose? If God is calling you to serve Him as 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

A Note from Ellis

Last month in Hawaii I paid \$18.00 for one dozen eggs !! Costs are up here too, but not for the plants, veggies and hanging baskets for **Mt. St. Mary Hospital**; prices remain the same as in the past. Knowing that **ALL PROCEEDS** go to the hospital you may wish to add a little to your bill.

In any even the seeds have arrived, the new greenhouse boiler is functioning perfectly and the planting has begun, so time to place your orders. All the usual (and unusual) plants and veggies will be available.

As an **EXTRA THIS YEAR**, bring me your empty patio pots in early April and I will plant them with whatever you wish, including best potting soil and 100 day slow release fertilizer! **And of course, free pumpkins for small goblins! DOES IT GET ANY BETTER THAN THAT???** Phone 2504776754 to order and view. Thanks in advance for your support.

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, March 11th

11am: Funeral Carmel Loader

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+

SUNDAY, March 12th

9am Mass: Angela Murphy+

Collin McKenzie(Int.)

MONDAY, March 13th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, March 14th

9am Mass: Marie Arsenault+

Elmo Beruño+

Les McAdams+

WEDNESDAY, March 15th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, March 16th

9am Mass: Alfredo Maria Sismas(Int.)

FRIDAY, March 17th

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 - is held on the First Friday of the month

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 March 6th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 3,056.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$ 1,370.00

Anawim Donations \$ 20.00

TOTAL \$4,446.00



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

A Note from your Catholic Students' Association

Our final Movie Night at Multifaith on March 15 has been cancelled. Please join us for a fellowship mass and meal event on March 18 at Holy Cross Parish. Mass is celebrated at 4pm followed by a lasagna themed meal at 5pm in the parish hall. All are welcome. Bring a friend(s). This concludes our term meals (before the Spring Banquet)! Many thanks are extended to the generosity of our dedicated parishioners who continue to prepare delicious meals for students. As the semester soon ends, we wish that God's continued strength, patience, perseverance, and endurance be upon all students as final papers, labs, presentations, and assignments are due in anticipation of April exams. If you are looking for something to do on Sunday March 19, a group of students will be gathering to watch, 'Jesus Revolution' at Silver City Cinemas. For any information please contact: lfoch@rcdvictoria.org. Please continue to follow us at [csa_vic](https://www.facebook.com/csa_vic).

News from the Diocese

Bishop Gary Gordon will celebrate a special Mass at 4:00 pm on Sunday, March 19 in honour of the dedicated work of those in health care. Everyone is invited to attend, either in person at Christ the King Parish in Courtenay (1599 Turner Drive), or via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@ChristTheKingComoxValley>. A parish dinner will follow for those attending in person.

In his prayer intention for March 2023, Pope Francis prays for victims of abuse. The Pope's video message announcing this intention may be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4VHtwuhPWc&list=PLTroqZcBkueI6MMgzz9LKRp-WVlbiit5sp>.

In this traditional time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, Development and Peace asks for your generosity to continue their transformative work in the Global South. Bishop Gary encourages us to show our solidarity with those who defend the lands, waters and forests that sustain them, as well as the culture, history and identity that define them. Donations for Share Lent can be made through the special collection on Solidarity Sunday on March 26, or online at <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/people-planet-first/share-lent/>

Retrouaille Vancouver is holding a weekend experience on April 14 – 16. The Retrouaille program is for all married couples wanting to revive their marriages, even those who are already separated or divorced. Couples who commit to the program leave with a renewed sense of hope, commitment, intimacy and trust. For more information, visit www.retrouaille.org or www.helpmy marriage.ca, email vancouverbc@helpourmarriage.org or call 604-530-6710.

The Diocesan Archives is offering a series of informational and educational sessions to schools, parish communities, and other groups. Topics include the path to sainthood, relics, the missionary history of the Diocese, innovative ideas that have come from the Diocese, the role of women in the Church, and the future of faith communities. For more information, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/listening-looking-and-learning-with-the-diocesan-archives>

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 (after hours)

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistants: Phil & Sheila Wall

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University Chaplain: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Sunday Social Bridge is held on the first Sunday of the month from 7 - 10 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Tony Southwell at (250) 477-5738 to register.

The **Social Concerns Office (SCO)** at [833 View Street](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/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

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.