



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 - March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent

We are a little more than halfway into Lent. You could call it our journey through the desert, our journey to Easter, the light, and the new life. We Christians go this path like everyone else, like ordinary people; like men and women who are marked by everything that happens in our world. There is a lot of misery, a lot of sin, a lot of powerlessness, a lot of hostility, a lot of not knowing where we are going. As Christians, we are not protected from the disillusionment of life. It is moments like these that we can hear ourselves say: "Where is our God? Does he really care?" Perhaps we would not dare to say it, but don't we often think: what is the use of being Christian in a world where you must fend for yourself, where you should not get your expectations too high, because you are bound to get hurt and disillusioned?" Jesus himself appears on our path today, halfway into Lent, halfway to Easter. And he points us to the cross on which he will be lifted up. And dear friends the verdict is love.

The cross is placed here in our midst not as a reminder of what we, in our sinfulness, have done or left undone, nor as a reminder of what, in our powerlessness, we cannot do, but as a reminder of the lasting truth that God does not condemn us, but saves us. And we look up to that cross, not out of a sense of pity and shame, but as an acknowledgement of the fact that if it had not been for our having stumbled on this kind of a God in Jesus, we would certainly drown and go under in our misery and sin, in our powerlessness and hostility, in our not knowing where we are going. If the cross is a sign of anything at all, then it is a sign of the certainty that a faithful God stands by us and is prepared to slug it out with us. We have him to cling to, and if we look attentively at him, we see that his hands and heart are open to us. The cross signifies for us that God's entire existence is one of being given for us. With that kind of God in our lives, we will not have to go under.

When Nicodemus sought out Jesus, he was in the dark both literally and symbolically. He could not see clearly. In the years that followed this late-night conversation, Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus and, step by step, was drawn to see things differently. At last, he finally did see. When at the end, Jesus was really and truly lifted up, Nicodemus was not too far away. When the ancient people refused to follow God, their own way took them to destruction. But God is rich in mercy and has worked throughout history to save even the unfaithful. Believing in Jesus means following his ways.

When we meditate on the crucifix and participate in the Eucharist we also see Jesus lifted up. Perhaps today as we lift our eyes to see him, we might ponder on the mystery of suffering and exaltation and wonder at the love that is lifted up and draws us ever closer, uplifting us as well.

Lift high the Cross,
Father William



OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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MOUNT ST. MARY HOSPITAL, HANGING BASKETS AND OTHER VEGGIES

There is still time to place your orders for hanging baskets and other plants! This year in addition to the baskets, **geraniums** and **tomatoes** there are also **veggie transplants** available for your gardens: lettuce red and green, basil, bok choy, onions and leeks, all ready for setting out at the right time. Daisy annuals in all colours are also up for grabs. These beauties can be seen in bloom in the greenhouse early May. *There are only a few flower baskets* left so please phone with your requests in to our resident green thumb, Ellis Achtem, 250-477-6754 or eachtem@shaw.ca

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: SHARE LENT**

The passion of youth: Did you know Development and Peace has an active youth movement from coast to coast? The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign celebrates the passion and commitment of youth, who represent the present and the future of the Development and Peace movement. Join them in supporting our work for positive change in Canada and the Global South. **Start a solidarity letter chain in aid of Development and Peace.** Learn how at devp.org/chainletter.

CWL BURSARIES

Are you a graduating grade 12 student? If so, you may be interested in the following bursary that is available through the Victoria Diocesan CWL:

VICTORIA DIOCESAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE BURSARY, "In Memory of Freda Smith" (\$750)

Application Deadline: **April 15, 2021**. In memory of Freda Smith this bursary is awarded annually to a child or a grandchild of members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria.

-Student must complete the Catholic Women's League Bursary Application Form - available at Parish Office or online at <https://cwldov.org/bursaries>

-Student must attach a transcript of his/her current academic standing.

-Student must attach a narrative essay outlining his successes, achievements, parish and community involvement and future goals

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BC

Application Deadline: **April 2, 2021**. Although not a CWL bursary, this may also be of interest to you. One bursary of **\$500** - to a graduating student enrolled in a Catholic secondary school, or who are members of a BC or Yukon parish and enrolled in a public secondary school or are home-schooled. Criteria and application process available at <https://www.chabc.bc.ca/bursary/>

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, Mother of Jesus 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

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephology>

[https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/13/st-joseph-covid-pandemic-pope-francis-james-martin-239479?gclid=Cj0KCCQiAlpyCBhCtARIsAHaY_5dQ4IM-](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/13/st-joseph-covid-pandemic-pope-francis-james-martin-239479?gclid=Cj0KCCQiAlpyCBhCtARIsAHaY_5dQ4IM-k9XLUHbuyrn5W46_2blInpqxf0c9OviHU27oVx4gDHTYeyQaAjhpEALw_wcB)

[k9XLUHbuyrn5W46_2blInpqxf0c9OviHU27oVx4gDHTYeyQaAjhpEALw_wcB](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/13/st-joseph-covid-pandemic-pope-francis-james-martin-239479?gclid=Cj0KCCQiAlpyCBhCtARIsAHaY_5dQ4IM-k9XLUHbuyrn5W46_2blInpqxf0c9OviHU27oVx4gDHTYeyQaAjhpEALw_wcB)



PRAYER REFLECTION

Prayer is the key that opens the heart of God. —Saint Padre Pio
You know quite well, deep within you, that there is only . . . a single power, a single salvation . . . and that is called loving. —Hermann Hesse
I believe that I can return, no matter how far I've strayed. I believe that I have the inner strength to change. I believe that I can become truly devoted and close to God. —Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

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 featuring St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Tofino:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/st.-francis-of-assisi-tofino-legacy-of-faithful-service>

Bishop Gary Gordon celebrated the Funeral Mass for Sr. Margaret Baumann IHM at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on March 8, 2021. The link to the Diocesan website YouTube page for the recording of the Celebration of Life may be found via: <https://youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne>

REMEMBERING SOMEONE SPECIAL AT EASTER



We welcome donations for the Easter floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a loved one, please pick up an envelope at the back of the church or the office. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside please drop it off at the office before March 31.

A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT'S SCHOOL

Grade 2B went all in for Dr. Seuss Day! Here are some fun pictures of their costumes: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/4137367999659295>

And a **big thank you** to everyone who bid, donated and otherwise supported the Silent Auction. Together we raised \$7,659.00!!

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, March 13 at 4pm on the YouTube page.** Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Father William will be available for confession on Friday, March 19th from 10am-12noon. Please register for a 10 minute timeslot. Registration opens Tuesday, March 16th at 9am.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, March 13th

Intention: Elmo Beruño+
1:00pm Funeral Mass for Clive Loader
(Live Streamed)

SUNDAY, March 14th

Intention: Harold Gray +

MONDAY, March 15th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, March 16th

Intention: Brian Wall +

WEDNESDAY, March 17th

Intention: Joseph and Monica Zhang +

THURSDAY, March 18th

Intention: Francis and Sophie Zhang Int.

FRIDAY, March 19th

Intention: Dorothy Maclsaac +

At this time there are no in-person Masses being held.

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.



COLLECTION for March 7, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$2,090.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,677.00
TOTAL	\$3,767.00