



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish



SUNDAY - March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Consider today's gospel a wake-up call. We cannot save ourselves from the hour of our deaths. If it comes this day, or the next, what will you regret most? One focus during Lent is to reflect on our own death and to see our way through it. Today the gospel tells us about Jesus as he enters upon the final week of his life. Jesus' attitude facing his death was one of anguish, but not despair. Jesus accepted the inevitable rather than lust after glory or long life. He did not abandon his vocation or back down from what he knew God wanted. It was only by surrendering his life that he could draw all people to himself.

We should not have too much difficulty recognizing ourselves in the moving words of Jesus: "now my soul is troubled; ... When we have lived a bit, then we will also have stumbled every so often upon the harsh reality of human suffering, suffering with its many faces. Whatever form suffering takes, it is a fact, a brutal reality that we are confronted with either in ourselves or in people who are dear to us. It may be a long-drawn-out illness; it may be a sudden, premature death, it may be senseless suffering resulting from cruelty to others; it may be the breakdown of a relationship in which we had invested so much of ourselves.

"Save me from this hour. My soul is deeply troubled." That is the cry of Jesus when he comes face to face with the tragedy of his life and when he must enter the school of suffering. And he wonders aloud: "what shall I say?" It is a question that comes straight from the heart of someone who begins to taste the cruelty and bitterness of life, the inhumane features that mark life for many. It becomes even more paradoxical when we consider that it is Jesus who utters these words. His life had been marked by resisting every form of suffering and he knew himself called to be the healer of broken people. But despite his healing commitment he finds himself up against a power that will also claim him: the power of suffering and death. He learns firsthand the human situation of suffering and dying. He prays aloud and in silent tears. It is the instinctive reaction of people when confronted with suffering: "Save me from this hour."

But he does not stay there! The gospel today presses on. When Jesus is shaken by the thought of his immanent suffering and death he turns to God, he clings to him. Precisely at this moment, Jesus cannot and will not let go of God. He continues to believe that, despite contrary evidence, God is his life and his future. When all becomes darkness around him, he remains tuned into the God who has been the ground of his life-project. He pleads with God: "Father, glorify your name." Mysterious words, no doubt. Words by which we will continue to be puzzled and embarrassed. "Father, glorify your name." In these words, Jesus consents to the fact that in his suffering and death God will show his divine compassion for his people.

Jesus saves,

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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. 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, April 13 (10:00 am - 12 noon). Please email hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism.

Share Lent - Solidarity Sunday

"That is the hope that inspires Christians. We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustices and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us."

-St. Oscar Romero, Servant of God

March 17th is Solidarity Sunday - please consider a donation to the Share Lent collection this weekend. A Share Lent envelope is included in your box of envelopes, or find one on the chairs in the church. Thank you.

EASTER & HOLY WEEK MASS / SERVICE SCHEDULE 2024



Holy Cross & St. Patrick's Parishes

HOLY THURSDAY, March 28th

Holy Cross Parish
(Livestreamed)

7:00pm

Fr. William Hann

Choir/Music

Paul Rossetti

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – March 29th

Stations of the Cross

St. Patrick's

9:00am

John Lucas / Michael Arsenault

Holy Cross

11:00am

John Lucas / Michael Arsenault

Holy Cross Parish

2:00pm

Fr. William Hann

VOX

St. Patrick's Parish

4:00pm

Fr. William Hann

Couples for Christ

(Livestreamed)

SATURDAY, March 30th – EASTER VIGIL (NO 4pm Mass)

Holy Cross Parish

7:45pm

Fr. William Hann

Bartle-Clar Family

(Livestreamed)

SUNDAY, March 31st – EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

Holy Cross Parish

9:00am

Fr. William Hann

Tafts

St. Patrick's Parish

11:00am

Fr. William Hann

Paul Rossetti

(NO 4pm Mass)

Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Service

Please note that our Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held at **St. Joseph the Worker Parish** on **Wednesday, March 20th at 7pm.**



Prayer Reflection

Veneration of the saints, respect mingled with awe of these spiritual giants, is a recognition of the supernatural excellence of those who substituted their own ideas for those of Christ.

—James McGrath

Venerating the memory of the saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them.

—Pope Paul VI, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*

To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.

—Cardinal John Henry Newman

Word of the Week:

Veneration

Respect or awe inspired by the dignity, wisdom, or dedication of a person. Specifically, honor shown to Mary, the apostles, martyrs, saints, and others viewed as faithful witnesses to Christ by telling their stories, celebrating their feast days, praying for their intercession, displaying their likeness, and performing acts of devotions, including visits to shrines and pilgrimages to a holy site. **Veneration** is distinct from the homage we give to God. Our present culture too often celebrates the vulgar, the cynical, and the rude. **Veneration** is an exercise in humility as it honors those holy ones whose virtues invite us to reach higher, whose lives are signs of faithfulness and hope. From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Christian **veneration** of images is not contrary to the first Commandment which proscribes idols. Indeed, whoever **venerates** an image **venerates** the person portrayed in it. . . . Images [lead] us to God incarnate (2132).

Upcoming dates to Note!

Thursday, March 21, 2024 - This year's **Chrism Mass** will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral at 7pm.

March 23 - 27 - A **Lenten Retreat** on Forgiveness and Reconciliation will be held at Sacred Heart Parish. Contact the parish for more information.

sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org or call 250-479-1611

Parish Directory!

In celebration of Holy Cross Parish's 40th anniversary, a new parish directory will be produced this year. We're hoping to include everyone, whether you've been part of the parish for 40 years or 40 days. Let's get to know each other better!

Before and after Masses this weekend, 16-17 March, you can sign up for photo-taking appointments. This is the last time to sign up. Photos are scheduled to be taken in the chapel in the weeks following Easter (starting 1 April 2024). The directory will include your names and family photos—you will receive a free directory and the option of purchasing a set of photos from the images taken. More information is available in leaflets and posters available in the church foyer.



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 16, 2024

4PM Mass: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, March 17, 2024

9AM Mass: Joan Sheedy+

MONDAY, March 18, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

TUESDAY, March 19, 2024

9AM Mass: Mick Goodger+

WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, March 21, 2024

9AM Mass: Ethan Stone+

Stations of the Cross 9:30am

FRIDAY, March 22, 2024

NO MASS

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

ADORATION

Adoration is held on the First Friday of the month in the 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.

COLLECTIONS , March 10, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,310.00
Loose	\$ 330.00
Anawim	\$ 655.00
Development & Peace	\$ 175.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,310.00
TOTAL	\$4,780.00

Thank you Volunteers!

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who picked up their pens, and took the time fill out the new Volunteer forms over the past two weeks. You came through for us and your efforts are most appreciated! Joanie Bidlake

News from the Chancery

1) All people of the Diocese of Victoria are invited to join in the celebration of the Chrism Mass on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 pm. At this yearly liturgy, sacred oils are blessed and given to representatives from each parish in the diocese. These will be presented in each church on Holy Thursday and used during the coming year for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria (740 View Street), and also livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMGHYEro3bg>

2) Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria (4040 Nelthorpe Street) will be holding a Lenten Retreat on Forgiveness and Reconciliation from March 23-27. It will be led by Fr. David Reilander, the president of Catholic Missions in Canada, and all are welcome. For more information, please contact the parish at sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org or 250-479-1611.

3) The Diocese of Victoria is participating in an international research project about how religious communities experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. All parishioners are invited to complete an anonymous online questionnaire about your experiences during the pandemic. For more information and to access the questionnaire, please visit <https://www.research.net/r/covidandreligion>. The questionnaire will be available until mid-April.

4) St. Mark's College at the University of British Columbia is offering scholarships to Catholic educators from the Diocese of Victoria who wish to complete online graduate-level courses from their Catholic Core program. The deadline to apply is April 30; for more information, please visit <https://stmarkscollege.ca/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid/graduate/#bceducator>

In addition, St. Mark's College is offering intensive courses this July on the topics of "Catholic Bioethics" and "Themes in Catholicism and Interreligious Studies". The courses can be taken in person or online, and can be used towards a graduate certificate or Master's degree, or can be audited. For more information, please visit <https://stmarkscollege.ca/channels/graduate-programs/summer-institute/>.

5) The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute have shared a recording of their presentation "Reclaiming Redemptive Suffering: A Spiritual Approach to the Meaning of Suffering". Many of us have lost any sense of 'meaning' in suffering. Some want to avoid it at all costs, even choosing early death. Our Catholic faith talks about 'redemptive' suffering, but what does that mean? Presenter Erin Kinsella will discuss this through the lens of her experience of chronic illness and developing spirituality of suffering. To view the presentation, please visit <https://youtu.be/5iwV87jPynA>

Start digging the garden plot as you can plant lettuce starters first week of April.

Six packs of lettuce, (three varieties) \$5 pick up end of March

Geraniums, 4 colors, plus lemon scented, \$6 order now for May 15 pickup

Hanging baskets, preparing 70 \$50, again May 15 pickup

Don't forget the best tomatoes in Gordon Head, large and cherry, \$4, May 20 planting

Assorted flowers, daisies, marigold and sunflower for planting May 15

And of course zucchini may 15

Happy to plant your patio pots...seems to be popular and keeps me busy and out of the kitchen!!

THANKS for your support, **ALL PROCEEDS FOR MT.ST.MARY HOSPITAL;** as I have not increased the prices you are welcome to provide a little extra for the hospital!!

Call Ellis Achtem, 250-477-6754, to place your order now.



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:

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow

mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:

4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday

9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday

Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish:

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday

12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday

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.