



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - March 19th, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel the miracle of the once-blind man's sight restored takes only a few verses--but the lesson is driven home in cycles as the healed man grows in spiritual insight and Jesus' foes similarly grow more and more blind. Jesus meets a man who inhabited a dark place. It speaks of the cure of the person who has been blind from birth. In the Gospel of John, this kind of story usually has a double layer: the surface layer is about the cure from blindness to sight; the second layer is about how one comes from unbelief, from living in blindness, to faith in Jesus, who is the light of the world. In sharp contrast with the person born blind, there are the Pharisees who close themselves off from Jesus. Their claim is that they can get by without Jesus. The judgment that Jesus pronounces over them is awesome: "Since you say, "We see", your sin remains."

In the story, both the person born blind, and the Pharisee are nameless. This is both a device used so that we may recognize ourselves in the blind person who comes to faith in Jesus, or in the Pharisees who refuse to believe. Is there not something of the two sides in all of us? The church sees in the story a baptism lesson. The pool of Siloam, in which the blind person washes himself and regains his sight, is the baptismal font. We are on our way to Easter at which time we will have our being baptized renewed. That makes today's Gospel a very fitting story to help us see how we respond to Jesus as the light of the world. Do we allow ourselves to be cured from our blindness so that we may come to see, or do we have no use for Jesus and remain in our blindness?

As far back as the earliest days of the church, the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent have been the occasion when the catechumens are introduced to the mysteries of the faith they will profess at their Baptism on Holy Saturday evening, a faith that we heard Jesus offer the Samaritan woman last week and the man born blind today. Today they pray for the light to see, to see, that is, with the eyes of faith, and next week as they contemplate the raising of Lazarus from the dead, they will pray for new life, the new life of Baptism. After their Baptism they will be sent forth to evangelize, to tell others about the wonderful things God has done for them, like the Samaritan woman, like the man born blind, like Lazarus. And in the telling they will grow. They will grow in knowledge and love.

Dear friends, these readings are not just for our catechumens and candidates; they are for us are well. As we listen to them on these Sundays we must ask ourselves three questions: "How do we thirst? How are we blind? How are we dead?" And we must ask the Lord to heal our blindness and give us life. It's the gift of God's grace that is freely offered. We have only to open our hearts to receive it. But we must always remember. It is a gift that is not meant to be clutched and hoarded selfishly. It is a gift that grows in us only in the measure that we are willing to share it with others.

The judgment that Jesus pronounces over them is awesome:

"Since you say, "We see", your sin remains."

Father William



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.

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

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>

Did you know - Development and Peace-Caritas Canada funds a project in **Cambodia**, where small fishing communities are organizing to protect fish and aquatic plants, with the help of Development and Peace partner DPA. 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 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.

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 funeral Mass for Carmel Loader, while not successfully livestreamed on March 11th, was recorded and is available to watch now. Please go to the following link: <https://youtu.be/n-J9-n0d9Xo>

Mark your calendar! Fashion Show with a Difference - Tuesday April 11th at 1:00pm in the Hall. No charge. Everyone welcome! Join the CWL ladies for a fun and informative fashion show featuring items available at our upcoming sale (April 28th & 29th). As we watch the models in their beautiful curated outfits, the Social & Eco Justice Committee will present interesting and thought provoking information about the origins and lifecycle of our clothes. Be entertained and educated while getting fashion ideas!

Library Corner

March 20th ushers in spring no more succinctly than with the celebrated Victorian poet, Robert Browning's Pippa's Song. Browning's wife is Elizabeth Barrett Browning, (herself a poet) and is particularly remembered for her poem "How do I love thee: Let me count the ways" (The sonnet is shown in her Wikipedia website)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Browning
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Barrett_Browning

Pippa's song

*The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven ;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven
— All's right with the world!*



Feast of St. Joseph
March 19, 2023

Prayer Reflection

Vision is the art of seeing things invisible to others.
—Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

You, too, should come to Siloam, that is, to him who was sent by the Father . . . Let Christ wash you and you will then see.
—Saint Ambrose of Milan

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 19, 2023 “We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day.” Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? 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

Extra Lenten Prayer

Are you interested in extra prayer time through lent? Please join us in the Mercy chapel after the morning masses for 10 minutes of intercessory prayers.

BAPTISMS

Do you have a child that you would like to have baptized at Holy Cross or St. Patrick’s Parish?

Baptismal Classes will now be held the first Saturday of every month. Baptisms will take place on the 2nd and 4th weekends of the month within Mass.

Please contact the office if you have any more questions, we are happy to welcome your little one into this wonderful faith community and will put you in touch with our Baptismal Prep Coordinator!

This year’s **Chrism Mass** will be held on **Thursday, March 30th at St. Peter’s Parish in Nanaimo**. All are welcome to attend this Mass, held annually, when the Holy Oils are blessed and distributed to each Parish in the Diocese. Mass begins at 7 pm.

Orders for plants and hanging baskets are being taken now!

Ellis is ready to take your order for plants, veggies and hanging baskets. If you didn’t know, Ellis grows all the veggies and flowers in his own backyard greenhouses and they are legendary for their beauty and hardiness. All proceeds go to Mount St. Mary Hospital, and prices remain the same as last year. In addition, if you bring Ellis your empty patio pots in early April, he will plant them with whatever you wish – in the best potting soil and 100-day slow-release fertilizer! Call Ellis at 250-477-6754 to order or for more information.



**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE
SATURDAY, March 18th**

3-3:45pm: Confession
4pm Mass: Liza Goncalves+

SUNDAY, March 19th

9am Mass: Peter Doyle+

MONDAY, March 20th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, March 21st

9am Mass: Harold Haid+

WEDNESDAY, March 22nd

NO MASS

THURSDAY, March 23rd

9am Mass: Theodor Huber+

FRIDAY, March 24th

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 12th, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,335.00
Loose	\$ 574.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,370.00
TOTAL	\$4,279.00



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

Thank You Corner

Thank you to all those who have led and attended the Stations of the Cross during Lent to date. You have made these faith-filled experiences.

News from the Diocese

1) A number of free online talks are coming up which may be of interest:

March 20 at 7:00 pm: “*The Impact of Technology on Relationships: Should We Worry?*”, offered by St. Mark’s College at UBC. Our daily tech choices are resulting in disintegrating conversations, distracted brains, and reduced human empathy. How should we respond? For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-impact-of-technology-on-relationships-should-we-worry-carol-bruess-tickets-559897337007>.

March 25 at 8:30 am: The first workshop in a three-part series on “*Catholic Social Teaching as a Solution to Polarization*”, offered by Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice Canada. We live in an increasingly polarized culture, where social media can become anti-social and social justice unjust. Challenging questions of our time are frequently reduced to ideological battlegrounds where virtue signaling is often valued over virtuous leadership, division defeats dialogue, and wokeness fails to awaken us to the dignity of all. How do we solve this? For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.cappcanada.ca/activities>

March 28 at 10:00 am: The first workshop in a three-part series on “*The Call of the Catechist*”, offered by the CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. This series will explore the needs of the catechist today and will be of interest to those involved in evangelization and catechesis. All webinar sessions will be recorded and released with a reflection guide after the end of the series; if you cannot attend but would like to be notified when session recordings are made available, please complete the registration form. For more information and to register, please visit https://cccb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/1316776042871/WN_Dhjog2k8R8i626WAcmCuIQ

2) March 26 is Solidarity Sunday, a day when Development and Peace asks for your generosity to continue their transformative work in the Global South. Bishop Gary encourages us to participate in this year’s Share Lent campaign, **Stand for the Land**, by showing 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 March 26, or online anytime at <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/people-planet-first/share-lent/>

3) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to offer their *Journey through Lent* video series. The videos for Ash Wednesday and the first four Sundays of Lent are available online now; every Monday throughout Lent, another video will be posted for the following Sunday’s Eucharistic celebration. It is hoped that this video series will provide the faithful with additional opportunity to prepare for the Church’s celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. To view the *Journey through Lent* video series, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent-2023/>

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, March 20th** 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, March 21st** at **Sacred Heart** Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Saanich from 6pm to 8pm. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm. For more information on the women's recollection, contact M. Elizabeth Boyd at melizboyd@gmail.com; for the men's recollection, contact Brent Boyd at od-men@boydfam.ca.

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: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

spahcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Office Assistant Job Posting St. Andrew’s Cathedral is seeking a full-time, customer-service oriented Office Assistant to assist with the clerical duties of a busy parish office. We’re looking for someone with a friendly attitude and strong work ethic, with an eye for detail, who can comfortably prioritize duties and work diligently under pressure. A full job description is available on our website or by email: saintandrewsoffice@gmail.com. Only those candidates who most closely match our requirements will be contacted. Please send your resume and covering letter to Rita Fichtner, Office Manager, at the parish office no later than April 22nd.

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.