



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

Mission Statement: 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 20, 2022
Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture this week assures us that God hears the cries of God's people, knows our suffering, and rescues us. The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, to give it one last chance to prove itself. It suggests that we too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to being helpful to the lives of others. Are we nurturing our faith and trying to love, so as to bear the kind of fruit God wants from us? When have you felt that God has rescued you? The fig tree of the gospel parable received another year to grow and prove its worth. What can you do in your spiritual life that will bear fruit in the future? Memory is powerful. What we remember as a church makes the saving events of the past alive and effective now. This Lent, what important things are you "remembering"?

Given the choice, most of us would prefer to attract God's compassion and avoid the near occasion of crisis. How do we do that? In a word, repent. This is a potent word for the season of Lent—not to mention every other season. It does not mean wallowing in self-recrimination and self-loathing, but it does mean stopping on a dime and changing direction. The fig trees on the clock now, and there is a limit to what the orchard owner will endure. In the final hour, Jesus is not going to ask us about our rationale, which flag we lived under, or whose guilt came first. The gardener looks for fruit on the tree, and come next inspection, there'd better be some. The parable of the fruitless fig tree is thought-provoking. It is not about doing wrong but about failure to do what is positively right. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who attempts no good work and lives a purely selfish life.

The parable of the fig tree is a story about compassion and crisis, according to Franciscan scholar Robert Karris. As "nice" as the gardener is about the fruitless tree, he does not bargain for a full pardon. He asks only for one more year. This request reminds us of the classic question: If you knew you had only one year to live, what would you do differently? For a lot of people, the honest answer would be not very much. We live as we do as a matter of choice, and if we wanted to change, we would already be committed to the process. As a priest I have seen what dying people do with their time, and many continue to do precisely what they have done all along. The angry rage, those in denial pretend, the depressed become increasingly immobilized, and the bitter remain diamond hard but many accept acceptance and go gently into the good night.

Keep digging
Father William



OFFICE HOURS

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

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 on Saturday at 6pm*. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Spring has sprung folks, and the good weather means it's a perfect opportunity to restart the Holy Cross volunteer garden group in preparation for Easter. Our first session will be Wednesday April 6 from 1 pm until about 3 pm, but feel free to come and go as you please. If you have a small hand trowel, you may want to bring it, along with some gardening gloves. Experienced and new volunteers welcome, just send me an email indicating your interest, and so that I can email each of you notifying you of future sessions, or when a session is canceled. My email is jseale1234@gmail.com. Hope to see you there. Your help is truly appreciated.

John Seale, Holy Cross Parish Garden Volunteer Coordinator

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT EASTER

The Arts and Environment Ministry Team welcome donations for the Easter floral display. If you would like to contribute to our Easter flowers and remember a love one, please pick up an envelope in the foyer. Once it is filled out, place your donation inside and drop in the collection basket or to the office. **Deadline is April 14.**



NOTE FROM THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN, LYDIA FOCH

UPDATE: Student Synod - the online event for April 20th has been cancelled. Students can individually respond at Complete the Online Form on this site: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/synod>. Videos are available to preview as well. **The church needs to hear students' voices!**

Upcoming: Salt Spring Island Day Retreat on April 2, 2022. Details are being finalized. The day will begin with mass, followed by a hike to the summit of Mt. Maxwell, while reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. At the summit we will discuss the student Synod questionnaire while listening to one another. Following this, students will have almost 2.5 hours to spend the afternoon in Ganges. Please contact Lydia at: lfoch@rcdvictoria.org for information and Eventbrite link. **23 spots available.**

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: SHARE LENT

The power of mobilized citizens

One of Development and Peace's strengths is our ability to mobilize thousands of Canadians like you to amplify marginalized voices from the Global South. Our partners want businesses to not be able to perpetrate abuses in their countries with impunity.

That is why our *People and Planet First* campaign is asking you to help ensure that Canada adopts strong due diligence laws to prevent Canadian corporations from abusing human and environmental rights across their global operations. Sign our petition for this at devp.org/act and spread the word.

Thank you for supporting our campaign!



--- Thank you Thank you---

To the parish family for generously offering a room in their home to store furniture donations. And to the many parishioners who donated listed household items for our refugee family over the past 2 weeks – this has resulted in the list dwindling to 3 items shown below. If you are interested in donating any of these items, please contact Carol Tyshynski at tyshynskic@gmail.com.

First Aid Kit; (2) Interior entrance doormat; (3) gift cards (supermarket, etc.)

WHAT ELSE IS NEEDED TO ASSIST IN THEIR SETTLEMENT?

Rental accommodation: A 2-bedroom apartment in a central location with easy access to public transportation and grocery shopping. If you know of any upcoming vacancy, please contact Carol.

PRAYER REFLECTION

Faith consists in being vitally concerned with that ultimate reality to which I give the symbolical name of God. Whoever reflects earnestly on the meaning of life is on the verge of an act of faith. —Paul Tillich

Bertrand Russell declared that, in case he met God, he would say to Him, "Sir, you did not give us enough information." I would add to that, "All the same, Sir, I'm not persuaded that we did the best we could with the information we had." —Kurt Vonnegut

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Please note the following changes to the schedule in March. We have also posted these changes at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

- Sunday, March 20: Livestream at 9 am from Port McNeill

On all other days, the regular schedule is in effect: 7 pm on weeknights, and 9:30 am on Sundays from St. Andrew's Cathedral.

The Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops have issued a press release inviting all the Canadian faithful and people of good will to join Pope Francis in praying for peace in Ukraine. The text of the release is below, or it can be read online at <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/catholic-bishops-of-canada-invite-all-canadian-faithful-to-join-pope-francis-and-to-pray-for-peace/>.

In the Diocese of Victoria, Bishop Gary Gordon will join in the prayers consecrating Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the 7 pm Mass at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria, BC. All are invited to participate in the Mass via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVP3PYsEXjA>.

This information has also been posted on the diocesan website at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishops-of-canada-invite-all-to-join-pope-francis-in-prayers-for-peace>. Please share with your communities!

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



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, March 19th

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession
4pm Mass: Les McAdams +

SUNDAY, March 20th

9am Mass: Nancy Kelly +

MONDAY, March 21st

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, March 22nd

9am Mass: Nancy Kelly +

WEDNESDAY, March 23rd

9am Mass: San King Fung +

THURSDAY, March 24th

9am Mass: Hans Gunter Schauberg +

FRIDAY, March 25th

9am: Mass: Humberto Prado Villela +

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.



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

COLLECTION for March 13, 2022

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3,290.00
Loose	\$ 362.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,329.00



CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

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Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

University Chaplain: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bshen-



NEWS FROM ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The grade 7's won second place in the National Money Management competition! For that and some St. Patrick's fun check out their Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/>

CALL FOR DONATED YARN!

You might not know this, but long time parishioner, Judy Begg, is also a long time supporter of the Hospital Auxiliary at Royal Jubilee Hospital Gift Shop. To date she has knit *over 360 baby sweaters* and donated them all to the gift shop to be sold for charity. If you have any unused balls of yarn please consider donating them to Judy. Yarn donations can be dropped off at the parish office or in the bin in the foyer of the church. *Thank you!*

SYNOD LISTENING CIRCLE INFORMATION

Have you participated in any Synod activities yet? If no, you still have time to:

Join an **in-person Parish Synod Listening Circle session** by **calling the parish office to register** for one of the two sessions being held

Thurs, March 31 at 6:30 pm in the church

Wed, April 6 after morning mass (9:45am at the church)

Watch to bulletin for additional sessions to be held later in April

OR - Join a **virtual Diocesan Synod Listening Circle session** by clicking on the link to register for one of the following sessions

[Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM](#)

[Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 11:30 AM](#)

Watch the diocesan website for additional dates

OR - Respond to a survey

Paper survey is available at the back of the church. Paper surveys can be dropped off or mailed to the church or Diocesan Office.

or [Click here to complete the form online.](#)

For more information on the Synod, you may visit the diocesan website. www.rcdvictoria.org/synod.

Let your voice be heard: The Church is waiting to hear your thoughts, your stories, your hopes and dreams. This invitation is a unique opportunity to shape the future!

[Here's how you can participate in Synod 2021-2023:](#)

1. Attend an in-person Listening Circle – contact the parish office for details

2. Sign up for an online Synod Listening Circle. The next two dates are:

March 22, 2022 6:30-8:30 pm <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/298812565427>

March 29, 2022 11:30-1:30 pm <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/298819746907>

Submit your comments using the Listening Church response form on the Synod website (<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/synod>), or contact the parish office for a paper copy.

Pray for the success of the Synod.

WOMEN OF THE PARISH

YOU are invited to come join Catholic women from all across Canada in Kelowna at the Delta Grand Hotel, this August 14 – 17th. Everyone is welcome! You can attend all 3 days or just one. The Catholic Women's League of Canada will be holding their 102nd annual convention. You don't have to be a member, just come check out the love of sisterhood! We are also inviting women to step forward to help the planning committee fulfill our theme **Rejoice in the Vineyard of the Lord!** If you can give some of your time or would like more information on attending please contact Nancy Simms at simmstogether@gmail.com. We encourage you to go to www.cwl.ca for more information. Or contact Theresa Smith of St. Patrick's Parish at theresasmith1225@shaw.ca

Knights of Columbus On-line Lenten Retreat March 26

The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council is inviting member Knights of Greater Victoria Councils to join our LENTEN RETREAT on Saturday, March 26th from 1 to 4 p.m. The Retreat Master will be Deacon Philip Yuson; and the topic of the Retreat is "Spiritual Warfare" (from the KofC's "Into the Breach"). Be sure to have a working microphone and camera in order to fully participate in the talks & prayers. To join, simply click on this link: <http://refuge.conceptbc.ca>

Save Your Bottles and the Date!! On Saturday April 23rd from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm the Knights of Columbus will be having a bottle drive . Drop off any refundable cans, bottles, and milk containers to St. Patrick's Church parking lot. (No sorting required) Proceeds will be going to support The Knights of Columbus and student bursaries.

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

The General and Liturgical Directives and Music Ministry Covid-19 Prevention Plan, to be followed by all parishes in the Diocese of Victoria, have been updated according to the most recent PHO's.

To summarize:

- Capacity limits on attendance at worship services or other gatherings in church buildings are no longer required. It is highly recommended that parishes continue to encourage physical distancing.
- The use of face coverings is now optional in church buildings. However, the continued use of face coverings is highly recommended as a prudent and wise choice to ensure the safety of all. This is especially true during higher-risk situations such as while singing or while distributing Communion.

The Directives, Prevention Plan and Memo are also available online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/responsetocovid19-0>. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the Bishop's Office with any questions or concerns.

TOGETHER WE CAN: KofC FOOD DRIVE

In keeping with our theme "Together We Can" the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council 13356 invite you to join us in our Food Drive to fill the empty spots in the food bank at the Social Concerns office of St. Vincent de Paul. **The program runs until Sunday April 10th.**

You may make donations by;

1) Drop off donations at St. Joseph's Church before masses and St. Vincent or Knight volunteers will handle it from there.

OR

2) Join St. Joseph the Worker Knights in our Drive Thru on Sat. April 9th from 10:30am to 4pm or Sun April 10th from 12:30 pm. Just put your donation in the trunk drive thru St. Joseph's parking lot at: 753 Burnside St West You will see our open tent. Pop the trunk and our Knights will unload your donation. Cash and cheque donations accepted. Please put in an envelope with donor info for receipt. Make check payable to Knights of Columbus Council 13356.