

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 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Lent

We hear a lot about sacrifice during Lent. Not so much about mercy. Yet as the Lord reminds us in today's Gospel that mercy is the heart of God's love for us. Saint Thomas Aquinas defined mercy as the "compassion in our hearts." Let mercy, the love beating within, be your Lenten offering. Today's Gospel is all about compassion! The prodigal Son's phrases are so powerful that they have become proverbial. Prodigal Son, fatted calf. . . lost and found. A story that has enriched the vocabulary of the world. And not just the world's vocabulary" the world's mentality as well. No story tells us more about God or makes us feel better about ourselves. The message is clear...God keeps all promises even when we do not, and God is forever willing to be reconciled with us. God promises to provide for us, to feed us, to love us. All we need to do is trust in God. I doubt if any of us can ignore its central message, that there is no limit to God's forgiveness and that our repentance brings joy to the Father's heart. Do you imagine that God does not want us to turn away from sin? Do you think God does not love you? Then you have not been listening to the story of the Prodigal Son.

In the story of the prodigal son, Jesus tells us that the home we all long for is just a quick turn away. That is good news for us all, it is good news for own brothers and sisters who have left the fold. It never is too late for any of us! All we need do is turn away from our false identities (fed by greed, fear, pride, or self-centeredness), and turn toward the faithful God who stands on the hilltop longing for our return. How well have you kept your end of the bargain? During what times in your life have you found it hardest to trust that God is with you, at your side? Have you experienced God's prodigal love—the all-consuming, forgiving love so vividly described in today's gospel? When have you felt the most joyful in the knowledge of God's love? Like the main characters of Jesus' famous parable, all of us have moments of being lost in sin, stinginess, and abundant love.

This whole parable can be described as a good confession and reconciliation. The son starts his confession: he has been planning it for a long time. To his amazement, the son is restored to the happiness of the life he had so casually thrown aside when he left. Jesus tells us that God like that: running with open arms to welcome those who come back. Whoever listens to this parable from the heart, will know it applies to himself, or herself. They will feel, maybe for the first time, that in the depths of life there is someone who welcomes us and forgives us, unconditionally, someone who only wants us to have fullness of life. Do you have places in your heart you try to hide from God? What are they? How can you open them to God's renewing Spirit? When have you experienced the kind of unconditional love—despite your past mistakes—that the Prodigal Son received from his loving father?

Mercy abounds
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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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.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from *Holy Cross Parish* on Saturday at 4pm. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

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 loved 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.**



EASTER LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

We are planning and preparing for our first in-person Holy Week in two years! As exciting as this is, you can imagine there is a lot of prep involved, and many hands will be needed on deck to make it happen. The Easter Masses and services at Holy Cross Parish, they are as follows:

Thursday, April 14th - Holy Thursday: 7:00pm

Friday, April 15th - Good Friday: 2:00pm

Saturday, April 16th - Easter Vigil: 8:30pm

Sunday, April 17th - Easter Sunday: 9am

If you are planning on attending any of these services and are able to help as a liturgical minister (usher, lector, Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, etc.) please call the office: 250-477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org Anna Mendonca, (you can call her at home as well, 250-477-3552), will be in the office next week working on the ministry schedule - your support is so appreciated!

NOTE FROM THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN, LYDIA FOCH

UVic and Camosun students: if you are looking for a time to retreat from the stresses of student life, come and join the Day Away Retreat on Salt Spring Island April 2. Eventbrite link: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/uvic-and-camosun-students-salt-spring-island-day-away-retreat-registration-298947639437?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1

Final Board Game Night on Tuesday April 29th - come out for fellowship with others.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: SHARE LENT

Standing up to corporate power in Honduras

The *People and Planet First* campaign is about helping communities stand up to corporate power.

In Honduras, as in much of the Global South, corporations often threaten and criminalize activists who speak up against their abuses.

The Lenca Indigenous leader Víctor Vásquez was imprisoned for fighting the corporate takeover of his people's ancestral territory. Development and Peace's partner, the Honduran Centre for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC), helped free him from jail.

Another partner, Caritas Choluleca, trains and accompanies community leaders in advocating for policies that respect human rights and the environment. Recently, they got mayoral election candidates to undertake to declare the municipality of Orocuina a mining-free zone if elected.

Read more about these people's victories in our Mini-magazine at devp.org/lent/resources.



PRAYER REFLECTION

Whom must we recognize in this father? God, of course. . . . He will welcome you—you who are his child . . . because you have come back, and he will rejoice over your return more than over the wisdom of his other children. —Tertullian

Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you. —Saint Jerome

The overall purpose of human communication is—or should be—reconciliation. —M. Scott Peck

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.

A post has just been added to the Diocesan website about ways to prayerfully support the Indigenous delegation to Rome, which will happen next week from March 28 – April 1. The text of the post is copied below, or it can be read at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/pray-in-solidarity-with-the-indigenous-delegation-to-rome>.

SOLIDARITY SUNDAY - APRIL 3rd: Since 1967, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada has been the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. Development and Peace runs its Share Lent campaign every year to raise awareness of the issues facing people around the world, and to invite Catholics to practice almsgiving through donations to a special collection on Solidarity Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent. To learn more about Solidarity Sunday and this year’s campaign “People and Planet First”, please read the Bishop’s [letter here](#).

THE GARDEN OF ELLIS

FLOWERS, BASKETS AND VEGGIES!
YOUR CHOICE, MT ST MARY HOSPITAL OR UKRAINIAN RELIEF FUND

Please order your flowers, baskets and tomatoes now and let me know which charity you prefer. **ALL PROCEEDS** go to charity, all ready for pickup May 15th. Thanks for your anticipated support
Ellis: 250-477-6754

Reminder: Valentina will be out of office next week. Office hours will be 9am-12pm Tuesday to Friday for the week of March 29-April 1.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, March 26th

3:00pm-3:45pm: Confession
4pm Mass: Salvatore Ciccone +

SUNDAY, March 27th

9am Mass: Salvatore Ciccone +

MONDAY, March 28th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, March 29th

9am Mass: Thanksgiving for Family

WEDNESDAY, March 30th

9am Mass: Eoin Rafferty +

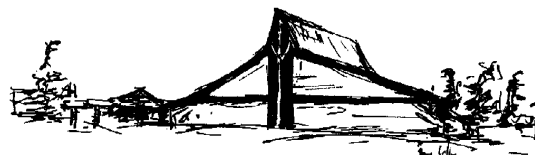
THURSDAY, March 31st

9am Mass: Norna Horner +

FRIDAY, April 1st

9am: Mass: Narciso & Melania Dapat +

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.

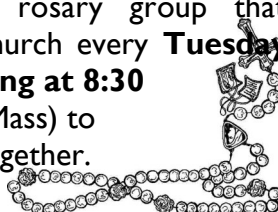
COLLECTION for March 13, 2022

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

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

MORNING ROSARY

Please join the rosary group that gathers in the Church every **Tuesday to Friday morning at 8:30** (before morning Mass) to pray the rosary together.
All are welcome.



CONTACTS

Pastor: Fr. William Hann

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 *after hours*

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Valentina Boyd

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: Debra Prior

250-661-0250 debroussel@hotmail.com

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

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NEWS FROM ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

St. Patrick's Elementary is on Spring Break! Hooray!! Thank you for always supporting our little school, especially those who participated in our successful Silent Auction. **We are grateful for community!**

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.