



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent gives us time to sit with Jesus and contemplate his sacred journey. When we look at the readings this Sunday, we see a God who loves us, redeems us, and offers guidance in right living for the greater good of all. We hear about the wisdom of God in the Cross, and through Jesus' restoration and renewal of the temple, we are called to live into the Word of eternal life with conviction and reliance.

God begins by speaking these words to us: *"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me."* Wow, what a pregnant mouthful! God says, **"I am the Lord Your God"**. In Hebrew, the verb 'to be' does not just mean to exist, but to be active in the past, present, and future. God's attention, care, power, and grace was dynamically present to our ancestors and is dynamically present to us and for us now and in the future. God does not sit back and watch things unfold. God is devoted to each one of us and to all of creation.

*"I am the Lord **your** God"* signifies a personal and relational God. God connects with you... me... us... and reiterates the invitation to be in communion with God. This covenantal language was established with Abraham, with Moses here on Mt. Sinai, and with Jesus on the cross and in the resurrection. God is reminding us of our relationship, our personal connection with God. God desires our openness, trust, and love, and we yearn to be open, trusting, and loving in our relationship with God. Having this personal relationship profoundly grounds us in God, and as we live out of this sacred space, God's instructions give shape to our daily lives, enabling us to fulfill our calling to serve the life and well-being of the whole.

"who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" Our God actively searches for us and relentlessly brings us out of Egypt, a foreign 'land' where we languish in misery, suffering, and oppression, for sin separates us from God. What is your Egypt...the place where you know you don't belong yet you cling to? What keeps you/us enslaved? Fears, doubts, lack of willpower and faith? God didn't create us for slavery! God offers us a home, the abiding place of God's glory, the sacred heart of Jesus, where freedom, love, and redemption encapsulates the essence of God.

"you shall have no other gods before me" could include any person, place, or thing that we hold to be more important or as important as God. These 'other gods' could also be the long-standing gods we continue to worship such as money, property, fame, power, control, addictions to ... the list is long. Even our own preconceived ideas and images of God can cause us to reject God's wisdom and initiatives (such as the cross). How we think about God will deeply affect how we think about and act toward our neighbor.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us focus on Jesus and enter into His relationship with God. Only in union with Him can we truly worship in our hearts and in our lives.

God's abundance, Mona

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](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.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 4 pm 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 sessions for Baptismal Preparation are: Saturday, March 9 (10:00 am - 12 noon) and Saturday, April 13 (10:00 am - 12 noon). Please email hcsbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism.

SHARE LENT Training next-generation farmers in Indonesia

In rural Indonesia, young people are abandoning agriculture to work in cities. Over time, this could threaten food sovereignty. Development and Peace partner **PAYOPAYO** empowers village communities to work together to find solutions to common challenges related to agriculture, food, energy, natural resource management and the engagement of youths, especially women. Our solidarity visitor Karno Batiran, the executive director of **PAYOPAYO**, spoke at Holy Cross Church last week. To support him and our partners in the Global South, please give generously to the **annual Share Lent collection** taken up on Sunday Mar. 17.

Prayer for the Children Preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at Holy Cross and St Patrick's Parishes

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them. May it be the beginning of a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.



We have 27 children who are catechumens and candidates. The RCIC group will celebrate at the Easter Vigil at Holy Cross and the Year 2 group will celebrate at Pentecost at St Patrick's. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

ATTENTION ALL HOLY CROSS VOLUNTEERS Joanie will be in the foyer after all the Masses this weekend and next with 2 new forms from The Diocese of Victoria - Responsible Ministry Safe Environment:

- (new) Volunteer Application Form, and
- (new) Covenant of Care Form.

All our volunteers are asked to please complete the new updated forms to assist with bringing all volunteer information up to date at the Diocese. You can either complete them at the table in the back or take home to complete and return to the Office, or next weekend at the Masses.

Your support is very much appreciated - thank you!

If you have any additional questions, please contact Joanie Bidlake at: officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

**Catholic Street Missionaries**

The Archdiocese of Vancouver and Catholic Street Missionaries invite young adults 19-30 to join us for the Hope on the Horizon outreach and leadership program happening between August 6-21st in downtown Vancouver. The program is designed to introduce young people to the life of a street missionary, sharing a life of prayer and service with others who go out into the streets bringing the love of Jesus to the homeless. For two and a half weeks, participants will live a communal life, praying, learning, and reaching out to our homeless friends on the streets. There will be street outreach training, faith formation and personal skills development. We will also enjoy recreational activities together. Food and accommodation will be provided. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon>

Prayer Reflection

Anointing of the Sick permits us to touch with our hands God's compassion for humanity.

—Pope Francis

When the church **anoints** a sick person, it **anoints** a member of its own body.

—Sister Susan Wood, S.C.L.

By the grace of the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick**, the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting more closely to Christ's Passion.

—Catechism of the Catholic Church

Word of the Week:

Anointing of the Sick

A sacrament for the recovery and salvation of a critically ill or injured person formerly called Extreme Unction ("last **anointing**"). No longer reserved for those near death, one may be **anointed** before surgery, in extreme age or illness, after losing consciousness, or when no longer coherent. **Anointing of the Sick** permits us to touch with our hands God's compassion for humanity. The mercy of God extends to the body as well as soul of each person. Jesus ministered to the sick and suffering both physically and spiritually. The church continues this ministry in its care for the whole person. When it comes to your health, you can always turn to the saints for help. Feeling sick? Ask Saint John of God, patron of the sick and hospitals, to intercede on your behalf. Suffering from arthritis? Invoke Saint Alphonsus Ligouri. Have a headache? Entreat Saint Teresa of Ávila.

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!

After Masses on the weekends of 9-10 March and 16-17 March, you can sign up for photo-taking appointments, with photos 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.



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 and placed your donation inside, please drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the office.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 2, 2024

4PM Mass: Deceased members of the Ciccone Family+

SUNDAY, March 3, 2024

9AM Mass: Joan Sheedy+

MONDAY, March 4, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

TUESDAY, March 5, 2024

9AM Mass: Elmo Beruno+

WEDNESDAY, March 6, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, March 7, 2024

9AM Mass: Marianne Southwell (Int)
Stations of the Cross 9:30am

FRIDAY, March 8, 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, preceded by the Rosary at 8:30am.

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, February 25, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 1,615.00
Loose	\$ 312.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,310.00
TOTAL	\$3,237.00



holy cross church garden head rd. vicarage, h.c.

News from the Chancery

- 1) Bishop Gary Gordon will celebrate a special Mass at 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 16 in honour of the dedication of those who work or volunteer in health care. Everyone is invited to participate, either in person at Sacred Heart Church in Victoria (4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria, BC), or via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFqxVFAvwjE>. A reception will follow in the parish hall for those attending in person.
- 2) 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>
- 3) This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Diocesan Family Camp. This year's theme is "On the Way Together", and the guest speakers will be Bishop Gary Gordon, Sr. John Mary Sullivan (Associate Director of Ministries and Outreach for the Archdiocese of Vancouver) and Joelle Dressler (Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria). The camp will run from August 15 – 18 in Nanoose Bay. Please save the date – more information will be coming soon.
- 4) The Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese are seeking a passionate and experienced individual to serve as Principal at St. Michael's Elementary school in Trail, BC. For more information and to apply, please visit https://makeafuture.applytoeducation.com/applicant/jobposting/jobdetails.aspx?JOB_POSTING_ID=0afd744f-57ec-4cd0-b784-a006abd9c4b9

Victoria Diocesan Catholic Women's League Bursary

The Victoria Diocesan Catholic Women's League is now accepting applications for a \$750 bursary "in memory of Freda Smith". The bursary is available to Catholic students studying in the Diocese of Victoria, who will be graduating from secondary school this year and who will be proceeding on to a form of higher education. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2024. Full details and application forms are available in the foyer or from the office.

Social Bridge Night! Is held the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Tony Southwell to register. 250-477-5738 or Email: tony_southwell@hotmail.com



Get your ticket !

The Irish Dinner to be held at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, March 17th at 5pm will be the place to be! Tickets are available from the office at Holy Cross Parish at a cost of \$20. 

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

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcsbpaptismalprep@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
Confessions are at 3:00pm on Saturdays at Holy Cross

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.