



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

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 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent

The beginning of March, the coming of spring, and the dawning of light fills us with the hope of new life, just as our Lenten journey does. If we need a little *forward spring* in our Lenten step, the readings this Sunday will strengthen our Lenten practice in body, mind and spirit.

God calls us to live in right relationship with everyone and everything in this world. The Ten Commandments guide us to live holy lives (almsgiving), to keep our focus on God (prayer), and to fast by detaching ourselves from the false gods of this world that enslave us (greed, envy, pride, the 'isms'). God states, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the house of slavery". Our God is a personal God, not someone 'up' there, 'out' there, or 'over' there. Rather, our God is right 'here' beside us, walking with us, guiding us, and wanting to free us from all that holds us back from being God's Beloved!

God wants us to love, honour, and praise God with our whole being because it makes us better people. We become who we were created to be as our stories weave tightly into the fabric of God's great love story. On the seventh day God rested from creating, and we are called to do the same. In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis states that "work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment." Work is a vocation; the Sabbath is a necessity. Rest blesses us, recreates us, and refocuses our attention on a loving, merciful, just God who is 'here' for us. Sabbath is a day of worship, delight and joy. We can bring the gift of Sabbath time into each of our days in the morning to align our day with God's desire for us and/or at the end of the day as we reflect on how God has been present to us. This practice creates an awareness of God in our lives and gratitude blooms.

The Greek word for honour means "to revere, prize, and value." By our words and actions, we are called to honour our father and mother, our elders, their wisdom and experience. By encountering others with respect, dignity, mercy, openness, and love, the last five commandments (murder, adultery, stealing, false witnessing, and coveting) won't even come into play. We are not meant to wander lost in a desert, thirsting and hungering, for we are a covenantal people where God speaks to our hearts and loves us into a greater sense of being.

In John's gospel, the temple, the holy place where God dwells, was being violated. Jesus shows righteous anger when he overturns the tables and chases the moneychangers out. While animals are needed for temple sacrifice, the markets were taking over the worship space and it became more a place to buy and sell. The 'doing' (commerce and exploitation) became the main focus and the 'being' (worship and reverence) became secondary.

Jesus takes things further and transforms temple sacrifice by freely offering Himself as the sacrifice. His body becomes the temple that will be raised up in three days. His unconditional love reveals a God who can't be bought and sold for favors. Jesus reminds us, especially in the Eucharist, how we are holy temples where God resides. Our sacrifice is a contrite heart. Like Jesus, we are called to tend the sacred space within.

As temple keepers, we need to ask ourselves a few questions. Have we desecrated our hearts with a marketplace mentality? Do we fuel our bodies with good nourishing food and water so we can grow stronger? Do we fill our thoughts with fear, pornography, conspiracy theories, or the Word of God? Do we focus our hearts on God or the ways of the world? What needs cleansing in us?

Let's deepen our Lenten journey by trusting in God's words, fasting from excessive work, internet surfing, boredom, Netflix binging or whatever it is that takes us away from God, and praying to become God's sacred vessels in a more profound way.

Together on our Lenten journey, Mona

OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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Effective Immediately: As per the latest health protocols given to us by our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, all in-person faith gatherings have been suspended until further notice. That means all weekend and weekday Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9am-1pm for private prayer; please sit on chairs on left side only. Thank You!

MOUNT ST. MARY HOSPITAL, HANGING BASKETS AND OTHER VEGGIES

There is still time to place your orders for hanging baskets and other plants! This year in addition to the baskets, geraniums and tomatoes there are also veggie transplants available for your gardens: lettuce red and green, basil, bok choy, onions and leeks, all ready for setting out at the right time. Daisy annuals in all colours are also up for grabs. These beauties can be seen in bloom in the greenhouse early May. **There are only ten flower baskets** left so please phone with your requests in to our resident green thumb, Ellis Achtem, ASAP....250-477-6754 or eachtem@shaw.ca



DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: SHARE LENT

During Lent Development and Peace will be hosting a series of webinars for Canadian Catholics. You can sign up each week for each webinar and learn more about what D&P is doing and ways you can help. The links to register and topics of discussion are attached to the email sent with this bulletin, and online on our website: www.holycrossvictoria.org.

This weeks topic is: "National THINKfast". Please call the office if you have any questions: 250-477-5321

Share Love, Share Lent: Strengthening vulnerable communities.



Did you know that Development and Peace supports a school for peasant filmmakers in Colombia? This week in the Share Love, Share Lent campaign, discover the creative ways in which we assist communities in speaking for and taking charge of their own development. In keeping with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of participation, let your Lenten journey make a difference in the world. Learn about our work and consider giving to help sustain it.

Discern and donate at devp.org/lent.

REMEMBERING SOMEONE SPECIAL AT EASTER

We 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 at the back of the church or the office. Once you have filled it out, place your donation inside please drop it off at the office before March 31.

ST. PATRICK'S ELEMENTARY SILENT AUCTION

Last chance to bid on the over 90 items available on the St. Patrick's Elementary silent auction, including Fr. William's Newfoundland home (the safest place to travel in Canada when all this is over)! Auction ends on March 7th. **Help support your local elementary school!** <https://www.32auctions.com/PSG2021>



A NOTE ON GIVING

We now have the option to e-transfer a donation through the Holy Cross office email: office@holycrossvictoria.org—please be sure to include your name and parish in the e-transfer message). Thank you for your support and generosity!

PRAYER REFLECTION

Jesus knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you. —Mother Teresa of Calcutta

The One who fashioned together their hearts is the One who knows all their works. —Psalm 33:15

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

Diocesan BLOG: Please find below links to the latest Diocesan Blog posts featuring St. Rose of Lima Parish and the introduction of a new addition to the Bishop’s little family:

St. Rose of Lima Parish (Sooke) – A true beauty! <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/st.-rose-of-lima-parish-sooke-a-true-beauty>

Meet Taku! <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/meet-taku>

LIFETIME NETWORKS

You may have noticed the purple bin and big white truck sitting in the parking lot of Holy Cross parish. These belong to Lifetime Networks, a local charity that is committed to building long terms friendships and connections with marginalized individuals who face barriers such as disabilities or mental health issues. They fundraise through their clothing bins, and the truck is the charities way of collecting the items from the bins across the area. Only clothing items and shoes can be dropped off in the bins at this time. To learn more about this charity, please visit them at www.lifetimenetworks.org

A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT’S SCHOOL

Posting from Fowl Bay! Our grade 6 leadership class has taken on the responsibility of caring for 4 chickens! The hens have already started to earn their keep, laying some lovely-looking eggs: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/4124343130961782>

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, March 7 at 4pm on the YouTube page.** Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, March 6th

Intention: Ciriaco & Melecia Torralba+

SUNDAY, March 7th

Intention: Ray Troutman +

MONDAY, March 8th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, March 9th

Intention: Dorothy Maclsaac +

WEDNESDAY, March 10th

Intention: Margaret Morgan +

THURSDAY, March 11th

Intention: Anna Cheung +

FRIDAY, March 12th

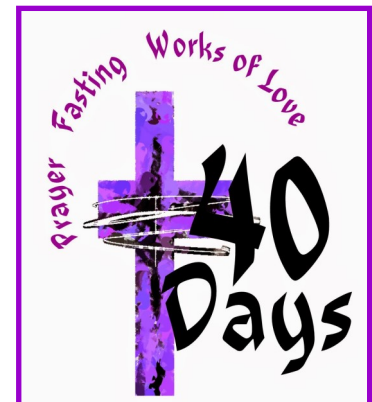
Intention: Gregory & Lucy Zhang+

At this time there are no in-person Masses being held.

The church will be open for private prayer from 9am-1pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please sit only on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians.

Thank you!

Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.



COLLECTION for February 28, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$3,905.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,677.00
TOTAL	\$5,582.00

| The funeral for Clive Loader will be on Saturday, March 13th, and |
| live streamed at 1pm through our YouTube Channel: [http://](http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch) |
www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch