



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 May 10, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

In the second reading, Peter uses an image to describe the reality we are as Church. We are a house of living stones. This is a profound image for me, and two years ago I developed a series of talks on this image that I gave to a group of priests in Saskatchewan. The Church is built on Jesus Christ; he is God's delegated and precious living stone. Christ rejected and crucified, but now risen - he is now the life-giving Lord. He is the foundation, the very center of our faith. He is the cornerstone of us as Church.

What is so beautiful is that Peter summons us to keep coming day after day to Christ, the living stone, so that we ourselves may become living stones and share the life of Jesus. He invites us, in turn, to continue in joyful hope the ministry of Jesus for humankind. Peter knew what he was talking about because he kept coming back time after time, and let us be honest, when Jesus needed him the most, he jumped ship. The only thing that saved Peter was that he kept talking to the Lord. I love that; we must keep talking to the Lord.

What does it mean to become living stones? It means that we do not become isolated, petrified, and dead. Rather, we are made alive and we are being built into a house, which is enlivened by the Spirit. Christ is the cornerstone, and the Spirit enables all that come to Christ to be built into this house. In Peter's mind, we are all living stones, and we all form an integral part of God's house. And it is as such that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people.

What Peter suggests by these terms is that, to the extent that we cling to Jesus, and go his path, we are in the process of becoming the true human race made in the image of God. It is in our clinging to Jesus and in our following his path that the true humanity that God longs for becomes a promise and a reality.

There are also some basic ingredients that characterize us as the house of living stones. It comes down to some fundamental qualities and obligations: qualities, which enable its inhabitants to live together in community and in shared well-being; in shalom, peace. Where these qualities are lacking, the house cannot stand. The qualities that I am referring to are *justice*, *mercy*, and utter *loyalty* to God, the Lord of the house.

It is to the extent that we let our actions and words be permeated by these qualities that we are living stones, and what is more, that our lives become the worship that is acceptable to God. We let our worship be grafted onto that of Christ. Christ's worship was not performed in the temple, in an isolated place, but in life where he was obedient to God. Christ's worship consisted of life-giving service to all who were in need.

Brothers and sisters, that is our challenge; we together are responsible for figuring out how we together can be a vibrant baptized community. How can we support each other and help each other, when as baptized men and women we try to come to terms with Jesus being the Way, the Truth and the life for us? As we reflect on our mothers today, both living and deceased, we give thanks for our mothers being living stones for us in word and deed. Happy Mothers' Day.

Let us be living stones for all
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Open for phone and email Tuesday to
Friday

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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

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“Be Ready to Open the Door” was the theme of Bishop Gary Gordon’s recent Pastoral Letter. During this Easter Season we are spiritually and practically challenged to envision “new life” and a “new normal” in the midst of a global pandemic. Premier Horgan has announced the gradual reopening of the province, and the Bishop has appointed an ad hoc committee to address protocols for the “reopening” our parishes in the Diocese. More information will follow in the future. And what does this mean for our parish? No absolute certainty but we do know that there will be limits to numbers attending, and physical distancing will be the norm, livestream Masses will continue and the elderly will be encouraged to stay home while the sick will definitely want to stay home.

PARISH AND PARISHIONER UPDATE

We received the sad news this week that one of our dear parishioners, Albert Bushell, has been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. His wife, Florence, is asking everyone in our community to pray for him as he goes through the next steps. Please keep Al, and his wife and family in your prayers.

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We also express our sincere condolences to Mable Marshall and her family. Mable’s son, Tim, passed away away on Monday morning. We keep them in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

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It is Dorothy and Alastair 67th wedding anniversary! We wish this lovely couple a blessed day, and we keep them in our prayers this weekend.

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We continue to pray for Ann and Bob Francis’ daughter Trish, as she recovers from her surgery and begins the next phases of treatment.



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

## COLLECTION for May 3, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes            | \$ 1,355.00        |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$ 1,163.00        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>\$ 2,518.00</b> |

## OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick’s and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>

*Like and follow the page and please do send photos of the church for posting!*

**Live Mass broadcast this Sunday!** Sunday Mass will be broadcast from Holy Cross Parish on Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00am on the YouTube page.

Click the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5NzsSMWmOTJe7UdReKf6Kw>

*Please subscribe to the page for future Masses!*

We at Holy Cross continue to follow social distance protocols as advised by our provincial health authorities, but please be assured our office is monitoring phone calls and e-mails. We look forward to the day when we can all gather again in person as a faith community but, in the meantime, let us all hold each other in prayer and solidarity.

## VIRUS-FREE BASKETS AND TOMATOES

Warm weather allows **baskets** and **geraniums** to be picked up anytime now. Also **tomatoes** are ready to take home and keep for a week before planting.

Still a few baskets and plants available! **Ellis 250-477-6754**

## QUOTES TO PONDER

How can I be useful, of what service can I be? There is something inside me, what can it be?

—Vincent van Gogh



For the latest updates, memos and information please check our parish website frequently: [www.holycrossvictoria.org](http://www.holycrossvictoria.org)