

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - May 14th, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's Gospel picks up where last Sunday left off. John shows Jesus to be at his "tender-best." Jesus deals with the indwelling of the Father, Son, and Advocate in the life of the Christian. As the Church nears the Great Feast of Pentecost, Jesus reminds us that the Spirit of truth is at work in the world, in the church and in us. That is important for us to remember. For the disciples, as for us, being a follower can get difficult. Just like the early disciples who lived and proclaimed Jesus Christ during tough times, each of us will maneuver in our own way to proclaim the liberating power of the Gospel. For some of us, it may take a little longer; others may be stifled and afraid. However, each of us is called to build Christian community in unity and in love.

Today when St. Peter gives all of us evangelists our marching orders, "*Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.*" This sense of trust is what Peter holds up to the believers in the infant church. What faith! We Catholics tend to be leery of words like "testimony" and "witness" when it comes to the business of sharing our faith with others. We may prefer to keep our profession of faith in a more formal key: say, with a group recitation of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. Many of us may feel ill-equipped to give a defense of the faith in the debate style known as apologetics. Yet each of us should be prepared to give the reason for our hope to anyone who asks. What keeps us faithful? And how does what we believe influence who we are becoming?

Christians are a hopeful people—an Easter people, if you will. In encouraging young people to hold on to hope, Pope Francis advises: "Dream of a world still not seen but will certainly come one day. Think of those who sailed oceans, scaled mountains, conquered slavery, or made life better for people on earth." Hope allows us to trust in Christ's promises that his Holy Spirit lives within us, that our lives have purpose, and that we can make a difference. Start small. As Saint Augustine advises: "You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones."

"*The gift and presence of the Holy Spirit is the most magnificent and wonderful thing that can happen to us, the human community, all living things, and this earth,*" wrote German theologian Jürgen Moltmann. The disciples did not see it that way at first. They were filled with grief when Jesus told them he would soon be departing from them. They did not understand the gift they were about to receive in the Holy Spirit, the Advocate that Jesus promised to send upon his departure. An advocate "pleads the cause of another," "supports or promotes the interests of another." When the going gets tough, it is nice to know we have one at our side. We have Jesus to thank for the Advocate—let us do so today. The Swiss theologian Hans Küng wrote that "*I relied on and believed in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who is alive today ... and to know that in everything, in all happiness and unhappiness, we are sustained by God.*"

Fear not

Father William



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.rcd.victoria.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.bishopreporting.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

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

Outreach Ministry Requests for Visits

If you or a person you know would like a visit from an Outreach Ministry Volunteer to bring Holy Communion to someone at home who is unable to get to Mass; or - someone in long-term care, please contact the Office at 250-477-5321, or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org

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 session for Baptismal Preparation is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 (10:00 am – 12 noon).

Please call the parish office to leave your name and contact information and to request a registration form. Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org for further information.

Holy Cross Pastoral Care Outreach Ministry – is looking for new volunteers.



Do you feel called / able to offer a few hours of your time to visit those who are vulnerable and in need? On behalf of our Holy Cross community, we reach out and offer companionship and spiritual support to those who are home-bound, elderly, incapacitated, palliative or isolated in hospitals, extended care facilities or at home. We welcome new volunteers to this important ministry of service. For more information, please contact

Mary-Anne Tinney, Coordinator, at: mtinney@shaw.ca – or phone the Parish Office at: 250-477-5321. Outreach Ministry brochures are available in the foyer. Thank you.



Ellis' Mount St Mary Fundraiser Update!!

It's getting warm outside! Large baskets, patio pots, geraniums and tomatoes can all be **picked up any time** now! Contact Ellis at 250-477-6754 to arrange a time to drop by and get your plants and pots.

2023 Father Leo Roberts Bursary Information

Eligibility requirements:

- Individual facing family difficulties / financial hardship.
- Strong academic marks with experience in church, community involvement and volunteer work.
- Full time student at Post Secondary institution/ college or trade school.
- A practicing catholic involved in the Greater Victoria parish community. Preference will be given to Holy Cross and St Patrick's parishioners.

Scholarship: \$2000 per year. Scholarship will be renewed for up to three additional years based on financial hardship and need. **Essay:** Write a one-page essay (maximum 200 to 250 words) stating your career objectives, your accomplishments, your community and volunteer involvement. Tell us why you need financial assistance. **Deadline:** Thursday, June 9, 2023 **How to apply:** email essay to Father William Hann at whann@rcdvictoria.org or send in mail to Father William Hann, Holy Cross Parish [4049 Gordon Head Road, BC V8N 3X7](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/cccb-message-on-permitting-persons-living-with-mental-illness-to-access-euthanasia)

Important Message on Euthanasia

In the context of National Family and Life Week, the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued an *Open Letter to the Government* and a *Message to the Catholic Faithful* on permitting persons with mental illness to access euthanasia/assisted suicide. The two documents may be read / downloaded at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/cccb-message-on-permitting-persons-living-with-mental-illness-to-access-euthanasia>.

Prayer Reflection

He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to Him, let go of yourself. Lose yourself on the Cross, and you will find yourself entirely.

—*Saint Catherine of Siena*

You will ask me how I know his presence. Because he is living and active: Scarcely had he entered me than he awakened my slumbering soul.

—*Saint Bernard of Clairvaux*

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 14, 2023 Vocations

The Lord said, "I will not leave you orphaned." Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. If God is calling you, contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org **Fr. Harrison Ayre:** hayre@rcdvictoria.org

Summer Faith Study: Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues

St. Andrew's Cathedral is pleased to offer another *Summer Faith Study* this year. The course is Bishop Robert Barron's study on sin and virtue. Over 8 weeks, the course will look at what the Catholic tradition calls the Seven Deadly Sins and contrasting them with what Bishop Barron refers to as the Seven Lively Virtues. The study is designed to increase understanding, promote reflection, and encourage practical action in people's lives to strengthen our wills against the many temptations to sin. Together we will explore how to combat pride with humility, turn envy into admiration, anger into forgiveness, sloth into zeal, avarice into generosity, gluttony into asceticism, and combat lust with chastity. The facilitator is Bernadette O'Connor email: det.oconnor@gmail.com or phone: 250-896-4136.

Classes will be available both in-person and online each week and run for 8 weeks. In person sessions will be at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays at the Parish Office (740 View Street), starting June 7th. Online sessions will be on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Thursday evenings, starting June 8th. There is a fee of \$25 to cover participant workbook and access to Bishop Barron's video recording (a subsidy is available if the fee is not affordable). Please email det.oconnor@gmail.com to register or phone the parish office at 250-388-5571.

Presentation at St Joseph the Worker Parish

Please consider joining Mary-Anne Neal for an interactive presentation about her spiritual encounter with the Indigenous people in the remote Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories. Listening to the whispers of the Holy Spirit, Mary-Anne followed the call to these communities in 1971 and returned to the Arctic from 2015 - 2020. The arc of her fifty-year journey with the Dene is testimony to the beauty of God's plan for each of us. The presentation will be held **after 6:00 Mass on Wednesday, May 31**, in the basement of St. Joseph the Worker Parish on Burnside and Mackenzie. You can also learn about Mary-Anne's adventure in her best-selling spiritual memoir, *Under the Midnight Sun: Journey with the Sahtu Dene*.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, May 13th

4PM Mass: Dr. Michael Conrad Kovacs+

SUNDAY, May 14th

9AM Mass: Marie Drew (Intention, in Thanksgiving for a favor granted)

MONDAY, May 15th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, May 16th

9am Mass: José Luis Alva Garcia+

WEDNESDAY, May 17th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, May 18th

9AM Mass: Amudha Jude+

FRIDAY, May 19th

10:30am: Funeral Mass
Sister Mary Ellen King, SSA

The Church will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon

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.

COLLECTION for May 7th 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 3,815.00
Loose	\$ 422.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,096.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,333.00

Thank you

Thank you to Trudy Holden for diligently coming to the office and studying notes in order to take the place of the two wandering office assistants who will be away from the end of May until mid-June. Special thanks also to Fr. William for his willingness to let us take this extended time off!

News from the Chancery

1) It is with great joy that we announce the Ordination of Joseph Yuson to the Order of the Deacon on Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 10:30 am at Holy Family Notre Dame Parish in Port Alberni. A reception will follow Mass; all are welcome. Your prayers for Joseph and his intentions are appreciated as he prepares to mark this important milestone in his life.

2) Registration continues for the *Roots of Reconciliation* workshop being offered by [Returning to Spirit](https://www.returningtospirit.org) from Monday, May 29 - Thursday, June 1, 2023 at Holy Cross Parish in Victoria. This workshop is for those who want to explore their own assumptions, judgements, and behaviours; are ready to deepen their experience with reconciliation; and are curious and open minded about what reconciliation can look like on a personal level. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.returningtospirit.org/workshopcalendar>, email info@returningtospirit.org, or call 204-889-4579 or 1-855-244-3963.

3) Applications are now being accepted for bursaries and awards offered by the Diocese of Victoria to outstanding students and educators. The deadline for applications is July 15th. More information and application forms are available at the following links:

[The Jawl Bundon LLP Bursary](#) (\$2500): for a grade 12 Catholic student who has been accepted to a post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to Indigenous students, and to students who live outside of Greater Victoria and Nanaimo.

[The Blessed Marie Anne Blondin Bursary](#) (\$1000): for a lay woman who is accepted or enrolled in a program or course for ministry in the Church, such as religious education, social justice, liturgy, social action, care of the sick, etc.

[The Char Deslippe Memorial Award](#) (\$500): for a teacher working in Island Catholic Schools or a parish catechist serving in children, youth or adult ministry.

4) All are invited to a celebration on August 26, 2023 at 3:00 pm at St. Mary's Church in Ladysmith to mark the 100 year anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax in Ladysmith. Over the next five decades, 59 Sisters of Charity served in our Diocese. For more information, please call the parish organizers at 250-245-4928 or 250-245-4473.

Garden Babies for Birthright Plant Sale at St. Patrick's Parish Saturday, May 20: 9AM – 1PM

Mark your calendars: Birthright's Annual Plant Sale is coming up May 20! We're moving back inside to the parish hall and will have all the usual plants, from perennials and ground covers to shrubs and edibles. We'd also love to have your plant donations. Plant donations can be dropped off to the Hall on Friday, May 19, from 3 – 5PM. Please contact Peggy at 250.478.5372 or info@birthrightvictoria.org to offer plants or plant sale help. **We are also taking pre-orders now for pick-up at the Plant Sale or during set-up on Friday, May 19.** Please see our Plant Sale Poster or go online for more details. <https://birthrightvictoria.org/garden-babies-for-birthright-plant-sales/>

Mass Times: Holy Cross Parish - Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9am, Weekday Masses Tuesday and Thursday, 9am. St. Patrick's Parish - Sunday 11am and 4pm. Weekday Masses Wednesday and Friday at 12:10pm.

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: Lydia Foch

lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

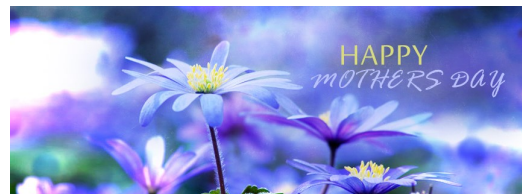
Sacramental Preparation:

Simona Stramaccioni-Bailey

sphcsacramentalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk

hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org



40th Anniversary Celebrations continue!

There are two more celebrations in the works to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Holy Cross Parish! Please mark your calendar - on Sunday, June 4th at 2pm at Holy Cross the first of these events will be held. Get your toe-tapping shoes ready as we will be welcoming some wonderful musicians to a concert in the church!

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.