



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 16, 2021
The Ascension of the Lord

The way Jesus shaped his life in obedience to God and in service to others made of his life an open door to heaven. That is what the story of Jesus ascending into heaven wants to convey. And as a result, for us as disciples of Jesus, what it takes is standing with both our feet on the ground without running from our everyday reality. Allow me to explain!

We have been baptized in Jesus' name and we have been filled with the spirit of Jesus. The risen Jesus has not disappeared from our world; he is present in our world in us, his branches, his Body. The risen and ascended Jesus has not become an extra-terrestrial being. He is for all times and all places the point of intersection between heaven and earth. Empowered by his spirit, it is now our turn to show that heaven and earth can still meet in the way we let our lives be shaped by what shaped the life of Jesus. And that is the kingdom-values of obedience to God and care for each other and for our world.

When we say Jesus ascended into heaven, we are saying that it has happened to one of our own kind. In Jesus, our own vocation and dignity have been accomplished. Jesus has not left our world in search of a better world beyond the stars. No, he is powerfully present and active among us to accomplish the task for which he was sent: the bringing about of love peace, forgiveness, justice freedom, humanness. *It has everything to do with the piecemeal realization of heaven in a world which is still for too many people a hell; it is the gradual realization of God's kingdom on earth.*

In today's gospel, Jesus is quite definite about his final will for his followers. They were to actively spread and share the saving message he had taught. This mission was simple to understand but difficult to carry out. It was to teach to others all that he had taught them. Just as his disciples had followed him, they would ask others to accept and follow him too. The work of conversion and salvation must go on from generation to generation, until the end of time. That remains his task, his mission, but is a task and a mission he can only accomplish through us. That is the reason resurrection stories and ascension stories turn into mission stories. We as his disciples are sent forth. Even if peace, love, justice, freedom, forgiveness of all seems humanly unattainable they are within our reach when we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit of the Risen Jesus. So, we pray: Risen and Ascended Jesus, send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth so that we may become transformed men and women!

In closing, the Ascension of Jesus is about the power of change and the possibility of transformation, about a God who was willing to reach out to humanity and bring us into divinity. We can participate in that process by reaching out ourselves and helping to change the life of our neighbor. 17 years ago, on this feast day I was ordained a deacon in Port Alberni! Time flies but no greater joy!

Blessings all
Father William

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!

DIOCESAN BURSARIES AND AWARDS

BURSARIES and AWARDS are available through the Diocesan website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org> under Programs. **Deadline for submittals is July 15.**

MOUNT ST. MARY HOSPITAL, HANGING BASKETS AND OTHER VEGGIES

May 15th is the day to start picking up your hanging baskets! There are also still lots of tomatoes left, as well as some geraniums and daisies (both perennial and annual). NEW to the Garden of Ellis: hand crafted cedar planter boxes perfect for patio gardening! 1ft square in size (approx.), only \$20 each. Please call to order or schedule your pick up! Ellis Achtem, 250-477-6754 or eachtem@shaw.ca



SCAM ALERT



There is a scam going around using the Bishop of Victoria's name, BUT there has also been a resurgence of the scam involving Fr. William's name, which has gone around in the past. If you get a text message or an email from "Fr. William" asking for a "favor" which usually leads to gift cards and/or cash please IGNORE this message. Often the initial message is an invitation to call or email him back. IGNORE that also. Fr. William has never, will never and would never contact parishioners with this kind of request. If you get an email, look carefully at the email address, and report all suspicious emails and texts to the office. Stay vigilant!

LIBRARY CORNER

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the month of May is filled with crucial events of early apostolic times:

May 15, the bodily Ascension of Jesus https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascension_of_Jesus

May 23, Pentecost, the promised coming of the Holy Spirit to strengthen the resolve of the Apostles to spread the Good News of Christ's message <https://www.aboutcatholics.com/beliefs/pentecost/>

May 29, The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the divine design of love that earthly Christians should emulate <https://cac.org/loving-relationship-2019-05-21/>

Fittingly in Mary's month, the gifted poet G M Hopkins compares Mary to the air we breathe <https://www.bartleby.com/122/37.html>



A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT'S SCHOOL



It's track and field season, and the St. Patrick's Team is in full swing!

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/432674995405443> |

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/4330314680364625>

ATTENTION: CATHOLIC STUDENTS - KG TO GRADE 7! For information on registrations for 2021/2022 school year, please contact the school. Deanne Paulson - Principal or Angela McLeish - Vice Principal at St. Patrick's Elementary School, 2368 Trent Street, Victoria, BC V8R 4Z3 Phone: 250-592-6713 Fax: 250-592-6717 Email: sp@cisdv.bc.ca www.stpatrickselem.ca

PRAYER REFLECTION

As sign and wonder this exaltation is a pointer to the revelation . . . of Jesus Christ as the heart of all powers in heaven and Earth.

—Karl Barth

For Christ also suffered for sins once Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison.
—1 Peter 3:18-19

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: A new post has just been added to the Diocesan News site about the Year of St. Joseph:
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/the-year-of-st.-joseph>

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19 restrictions and closures have made many of our most active ministries dormant, however, we hope that once our church re-opens, you may have the desire to serve our parish as an active volunteer.

On March 19, 2021 on the Feast of St. Joseph, Bishop Gary Gordon wrote a pastoral letter regarding the revised Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment (RMSE) policies and protocols. The RMSE Protocols have been modified for clarity and accessibility, and the Diocesan website has been updated with information for quick and easy reference.

If you have considered volunteering for a parish ministry, we urge you to take this opportunity to familiarize yourself with the RMSE protocols and guidelines set by the Diocese. Together, we strive to nurture a healthy, accountable, responsible, and safe environment for all parishioners to pray, serve, and worship in confidence.

For all RMSE information and forms please go to: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

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

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, May 15th

Intention: Margaret Kovacs +

SUNDAY, May 16th

Intention: Jose Mendonca Sr. +

MONDAY, May 17th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, May 18th

Intention: Clive Loader +

WEDNESDAY, May 19th

Intention: Wilf Woychuck +

THURSDAY, May 20th

Intention: Les McAdams +

FRIDAY, May 21st

Intention: Brian Wall +

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.



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

COLLECTION for May 9, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 4,005.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,682.00

