



# 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 17, 2020**  
**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. Jesus described this "advocate" in another place as a "Paraclete." Paraclete derives from a Greek term meaning "called to the side of another" or "advocate." An advocate is someone who speaks for us, represents our interests, someone who stands by us and is concerned about our wellbeing. How comforting today's readings when Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit is an advocate, sent to be with us after Jesus no longer is. Alisa Wagner writes that: *The Holy Spirit is like the wind. It can be gentle enough to stroke a leaf but hard enough to bend a tree.*

My dear friends 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 difficult 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. In our own way we proclaim the risen Lord. We all, however, are proclaiming the same Lord.

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."* That we trust the power of the risen Lord at work in the world, in the Church, and in us and that in all things come what may, we are sustained by a good and gracious God who promises us he will not leave us. In these difficult days of living with Covid 19 and how it has changed us and our world, the reminder of a gracious God sustaining us is a much-needed grace.

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 for 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 a faith! *"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.

Dear friends, hope sustains! In these trying times, we may be tempted to dismiss hope as something akin to wishful thinking. Yet hope is a theological virtue, along with faith and love. These three put us into position for personal union with God. Hope orients us perpetually in a Godward direction no matter where life takes us. As Cistercian monk Aelred of Rivaux declared: *"What is hope but food for the journey to support us in the miseries of this life?"* Cultivate hope by weeding out habits of negativity and cynicism.

Hope sustains  
Father William

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Open for phone and email Tuesday to  
Friday

**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

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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](http://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

Please keep the Kovacs family in your prayers this week as they mourn the loss of Michael Kovacs. Michael passed away peacefully, at home with his daughter, Colleen, by his side on Saturday, May 9th. A private, family only, funeral will be held on Wednesday, May 20.

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We have many parishioners in our community right now who are ill, isolated, and/or in hospital. We pray for them and their families as they navigate this difficult time made even more difficult with all the restrictions and protocols in and around the hospital and medical systems right now.

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Congratulations to Beni Beattie and Thais Santos, who were married this weekend in a small family ceremony at Holy Cross. We send our love and prayers as they begin this new journey together.



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

## COLLECTION for May 10, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 3,657.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,163.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,820.00</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 Saturday, May 16th at 4pm on the YouTube page.

Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

**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.

## FROM THE BISHOPS OFFICE

Bishop Gary has, in consultation with the Priest Personnel Committee, made the following pastoral ministry appointment:

Fr. Claudio Holzer, appointed Administrator of St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo, effective, May 15, 2020. Fr. Claudio, new to the Diocese, was born in Italy and is a Canadian citizen, having previously served for 30 years as a member of the Scalabrinians in Canada and the United States.



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