



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - May 21st 2023

The Ascension of the Lord

Today's celebration is the ritual marker of the shift in the way the Disciples of Christ have experienced his risen presence. But the readings look resolutely forward, not back as if to a golden age now lost. In Acts, the disciples are prodded by angelic visitors to get to work: "**Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?** In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear Jesus give to the Eleven the "Great Commission": "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation ... make disciples ... baptize ... teach." Yes, indeed, today's scripture readings send us in another direction. Of course, the focus is very much on Jesus; how could it be otherwise? But we as his disciples are implicated. His last appearance to his disciples says it all. Jesus speaks then of the authority in heaven and on earth that has been given to him. Mysterious words perhaps, but if we look at the life that Jesus lived for only a few years, we get a hint of what kind of authority he is speaking about. It is his limitless obedience to God, and his unconditional life-giving service to others; it is the power of his love; it is the power of his self-giving that filled his life. It is on the basis of that kind of life that the Father accepted him as the kind of stuff upon which a new humanity is built. If his being raised from the dead and his ascending into heaven mean anything at all, then it must be understood in the sense of this kind of life not being lost on humanity. On the contrary, it is placed by God at the center of humanity, accessible to all who put their trust and hope in him. Once Jesus is, as it were, patented by God - that is what his resurrection and ascension mean - then Jesus turns the tables on us.

Until his resurrection, the significance of Jesus' way of living was restricted to a small group of people and to a rather limited place. Now it is universalized; now it can become a reality in us as his disciples who let ourselves be driven by the same spirit that drove him. Jesus suggests as much in his rather abrupt command: "Go!" That is also the thrust of the remark in today's first reading when the disciples are told that it is useless to stare into the sky. It is harmless to claim Jesus as Lord, unless we let our admiration for him spill over into the kind of life we live, patterned after the life of Jesus. From now on, it is by means of our lives, by means of our discipleship that we give concrete evidence of the fact that Jesus is not absent from our world, but still very much present in our world. Without that, the significance of the story of Jesus threatens to be reduced to once upon a time story: beautiful, very moving even, but we remain at a safe distance from it. When Jesus shares with us the Spirit that encouraged him, it means that he takes us into a partnership with him on the building of his life project, God's kingdom.

We must be his witnesses. Empowered by him, and in accepting the task and challenge to change our world in his power, so that it becomes God's kind of world. Whatever makes life more human is what Jesus Christ stood for and so must we stand for. Underneath and from a Christian perspective, though, we recognize every caring action that builds up the life of others, we recognize such action as a kingdom action to which the risen Christ empowers us. And for that empowering us, Jesus is taken up into the sphere of God, where everything that shortchanges or destroys life is, in the final analysis, overcome. Our actions in the power of Jesus are to be living witnesses to that victory.

Congratulations to our children from both parishes confirmed and receiving their first communion this weekend!

I want to be a witness to Jesus.

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 or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish at 4pm Sunday. 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 sessions to choose from for Baptismal Preparation are: Sat, June 17 (10:00 am – 12 noon) - this is rescheduled from June 10, Sat, July 8 (10:00 am – 12 noon), Sat, August 26 (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. Also, please indicate which course you would like to register. The coordinator will email you a registration form.

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.

Special Presentation: Scams and Financial Fraud, Tuesday, June 13, 10am-12 Holy Cross Parish Hall
D/Cst Zwaan from the Saanich Police Financial Crimes Section will give a presentation at Holy Cross on the scams and financial frauds we all face these days. We will hear about the common and not-so-common types and how to prevent them. We've all experienced them by phone, email, text or pop up ads. Seating is limited so please register by calling the parish office 250-477-5321 or Darlene Southwell 250-477-5738.

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

Library Corner (Lobby entrance)

The next two Sundays celebrate the rich Christian heritage given to the apostles to spread the Good News -the Ascension of Christ as he leaves his earthly home
- Pentecost: the appearance of the Holy Spirit which will encourage the apostles to spread the gospel
A selection of related books is displayed on the table in the church entrance (foyer)

May 31 is the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at which she delivers her beautiful Canticle — the Magnificat

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascension_of_Jesus

<https://www.learnreligions.com/the-magnificat-prayer-542670>

Please return all books taken from the entrance table when you are finished reading



Prayer Reflection

The mission of the Christian in the world is a mission for all, a mission of service, which excludes no one; it requires great generosity. . . . There is so much need for Christians who bear witness to the gospel with joy in everyday life.

—Pope Francis

Stay where you are—find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, the lonely, right there where you are, in your own homes and in your own families, in your workplaces and schools.

—Blessed Mother Teresa

It is no use walking somewhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.

—Saint Francis of Assisi

Ascension of the Lord - May 21, 2023

Jesus said, “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” If you are discerning God’s call to become a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact 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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

Travis Bening
Trixie Bening
Asheri Mary Bongajum
Berinyuy Michael Bongajum
Kurt De Guzman
Mary Catherine De Leon
Jarah Igharas
Dominic Franco
Mia Maria Khachane
Anya Theresa Lach



May 20, 2023
4PM Mass

Evelynn Mavrikos
Megan Lucy Pouliot
Austin Patrick Pouliot
Lily Elizabeth Ray
Phenix Daniel Rodriguez
Aria Salina
Matteo Gennaro Valentino
Hudson Daniel Wilde
Alexander Zabaluev

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, May 20th

4PM Mass: Ole & Mary Qualley+

SUNDAY, May 21st

9AM Mass: Brian Wall+
Frank Lee+

MONDAY, May 22nd

NO MASS

TUESDAY, May 23rd

9am Liturgy of the Word
(Dennis Smith)
Angelo Rampon+

WEDNESDAY, May 24th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, May 25th

9AM Liturgy of the Word
(Trish Westwood)
Angela Aerts+
Frank Lee+

FRIDAY, May 26th

NO MASS

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.

WEAAD National Webinar Event



Save the Date!

Thursday, June 15, 2023
1-3 p.m. EDT

Hosted by



Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario



CANADIAN NETWORK for the PREVENTION of ELDER ABUSE
RESEAU CANADIEN pour la PREVENTION de MALTRAITEMENT des ANES



BC ASSOCIATION of Community Response Networks
Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect... Together.



COLLECTION for May 15th 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2170.00
Loose	\$ 305.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,096.00
Can. Helps	\$ 701.00
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 360.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,632.00

PLEASE NOTE: The office hours for the next 3 weeks will be reduced, open from 9am - noon only.

Congratulations to the Smaaks on their 70th Wedding Anniversary!

News from the Chancery

- 1) A new post has been added to the Diocesan website with an update on Synod 2021-2024. It includes info about the recently released "North American Final Document for the Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod", as well as links to our diocesan, regional, and national reports that were created during the Diocesan Stage of the Synod. To read the post, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/synod-2021-2024-the-journey-continues>
- 2) Rachel's Vineyard will be hosting their first retreat on Vancouver Island from August 25-27, 2023 at the Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo (2371 Arbot Rd). This ministry is a safe place for people to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing. For information please contact Nicola at rachelsvineyardvancouverisland@gmail.com
- 3) The Diocese of Nelson is seeking a professional Executive Assistant to provide exceptional administrative support to their Bishop in a professional, courteous and efficient manner. The position will be based in Kelowna, and applications must be received by May 30, 2023. For more information, please visit https://www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/jobs/show_job.jsp?REC_ID=1305.

Fundraising Concert

A grade 11 student at St. Andrew's Regional High School, Maya Zidek, will be holding a fundraising concert for Syria and Turkey in the wake of the earthquakes there. It will be on June 3rd from 6:30 - 7:30 at the First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Rd., with admission by donation. Classical music variations on violin and piano will be performed. Proceeds will go to earthquake victims. Your support would be appreciated greatly.

Ellis' Mount St Mary Fundraiser Update!! 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.

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 Adam Dobres, Pierre Schryer and Willy Blizzard. This event is free. Please see the bulletin insert or follow the link in the bulletin letter online for information about these performers.

St. Andrew's High School Spring Fling Concert

St Andrew's Regional High School's Annual Spring Fling Concert will be held at Holy Cross Parish beginning at 7pm in the church. Admission is \$5 for Seniors and Students, and \$10 for Adults. Everyone is welcome!

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

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.

Seeking Donations of Used/Old Hearing Aids

A parishioner is seeking donations of used/old hearing aids to support the Hearing Aid Centre of St. Patrick's Catholic Hospital, Maase-Offinso, Ashanti, Ghana. Please ask a friend to ask a friend to assist this hospital in its efforts to offer free health care to the poor surrounding communities. Please drop off donations at the office.

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.