



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 24, 2020 The Ascension of the Lord

After months of living in difficult and different times I feel ever more deeply that we and our world need Jesus! Most believers would agree. Which is perhaps why the Ascension does not feel like an event we are much inclined to celebrate. Jesus *departs*; this sounds like a terrible idea from every standpoint except the truth—because Jesus promises to send us his Spirit as an indwelling presence. If we still feel like orphans, remember Jesus' words: **"I am with you always."** We must see Jesus all around us: in word and sacrament, in the assembly of faith, in the disadvantaged sister and brother.

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 Letter to the Ephesians Paul describes the power available to disciples as the same as that which raised Jesus from the dead: **"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him...you may know the hope to which he has called you."** And in the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus give to the Eleven the "Great Commission": "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... 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. As disciples of Jesus, we cannot afford the luxury of staring at Jesus. Nor will our world benefit greatly from such a passive disposition. If there is one thing that is most remarkable about Jesus, **it is that he glorified God by the kind of life he lived, one of love, one of self-giving.** Now it is our turn to make sure that our world does not have to do without such lives. To make that possible, Jesus shares with us his Spirit. The Ascension of Jesus may be the enthroning of Jesus in heaven and on earth, but it is just as much the empowering of us so that we can perform kingdom actions. So, we pray: **"Lord, send forth your Spirit to renew the face of the earth through us your disciples."**

Dear friends, 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. 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. On this feast in 2004 I was ordained a deacon in Port Alberni and, oh how time flies! As Pope Francis reminds us, 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.

The joy of being a witness
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Open for phone and email Tuesday to
Friday

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.holycrossvictoria.org

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” As we are called to embrace a new Pentecost and prepare our faith communities in the Diocese of Victoria to reopen to celebrate the Sacred Liturgy together, we do so intentionally to guarantee the health and well-being of those entrusted to our care. Each pastor and parish must take responsibility for following the established *General Directives, Liturgical Directives from the Diocese of Victoria*, and Provincial Health Authorities mandates, to make the appropriate adaptations for their individual communities based upon size and resources.

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At Holy Cross Parish you must now register for which mass you would like to attend. You can register for a mass by emailing Joanie Bidlake at:

**officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org**

Our Mass schedule remains the same for now:

**Tuesday –Friday:** 9am Mass

**Saturday:** 4pm Mass

**Sunday:** 9am Mass

*\*please note that if these Masses are inconvenient for you, you may select a Mass time from St. Patrick’s Parish Mass schedule. A separate email was sent out in this regard.*

## QUOTES TO PONDER

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

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



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

## COLLECTION for May 17, 2020

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Envelopes</b>            | <b>\$ 1,090.00</b> |
| <b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b> | <b>\$ 1,163.00</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$ 2,253.00</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 St. Patrick’s Parish on Sunday, May 24 at 9am on the YouTube page.

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

**Please subscribe to the page for future Masses!**

## A NOTE ON GIVING

We know that Covid-19 and the resulting economic slow down has effected many of you personally. Given that financial uncertainty is greater than ever, we understand that some of you will no longer be able to give to the parish at your regular level and those on automatic debit may need to cancel their contributions. If you need to cancel or change your automatic payments, please contact the parish office at (250-477-5321) or email us at [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org) In addition, to make it convenient for those that are able to contribute there are new online and remote options now available:

- Online through Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/register/tier-two/>
- Automatic Debit (PAD)
- E-transfers and credit cards (e-transfers can be made to the following email: [developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org)—please be sure to include your name and parish in the e-transfer message).

**We are very grateful that you are part of our Catholic parish family. May God bless you and your families.**