



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 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Aren't we blessed that we get 7 weeks to really enter into the graces Easter offers? It is such a privileged time and place to reflect and engage with the Scripture stories. Over these past few weeks we have seen the Lord; we have heard about mission; we are called to be witnesses; we live into our relationship with the Good Shepherd; we abide in Jesus' indwelling presence.

We have met our Easter cast of characters and the various places Jesus has appeared to them: Mary, Peter, John, Thomas, and the other disciples at the tomb, in the garden, on the road to Emmaus, in the upper room, at the seashore. Each character tells a part of the Easter story: Mary's vigil, tears, recognition, and witness; Peter's fear and denial, and Jesus' forgiveness and commission to feed and defend His flock; John's belief at the empty tomb; Thomas' questioning, asking, touching, and statement of faith. Their actions reveal how Christ encounters us where we are as He journeys with us. God calls all of us to enter into the Easter story. What is our part in this great adventure?

We hear Jesus' words 'Peace be with you' numerous times as He appears to the disciples. Jesus is our consoler. We learn about the Good Shepherd, the One who lays down His life out of love for us - the one flock. His voice brings comfort, hope, safety and security. Today, we are called to abide in the one true vine, the constant guiding presence that abides with us always.

What does it mean to abide in Christ? It is a mutual dynamic relationship where we pitch our tents and rest in God's Word, plan, promise, kingdom, love and peace. It is an intimate, fruitful union, steadfast and everlasting - the final covenant. It is a desire for Jesus, a sense of dwelling and enduring with Jesus, and incorporating Him into our daily lives.

Jesus emphasized a *mutual* relationship. Abiding is something we must *choose*. It is impossible for the branch to bear grapes if it isn't connected to the vine. Only Jesus can produce fruit in our lives. We are invited to abide, to allow the Word of God to dwell in us, trusting in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit to transform us.

Christ is the true vine who bears fruit by giving His life freely, shedding His blood, and becoming the blessing cup, the new wine of salvation. We are called to surrender freely, like St. Ignatius suggests in his Suscipe prayer: "Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will". Total surrender and self-giving allows the indwelling presence to spring forth in and through our God given gifts as we share them with the world. Like the Good Shepherd, the Vinedresser lovingly tends to the branches, lifts us up, prunes and burns away dis-ease so we can bear fruit abundantly.

How have we seen the risen Lord these past few weeks in our everyday lives? Have we connected with others, shared stories of how God continues to touch us? Have we given thanks to God for the miracles of spring, the warmth of the sun? Take this graced time to abide in Jesus, listen to His voice, and trim the wick of the Easter candle within to burn even brighter. God is calling. Ask and receive!

In God's abundance and Easter Joy, Mona

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm

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

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!

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from our VGH/RJ hospital chaplain please call the emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.

MOUNT ST. MARY HOSPITAL, HANGING BASKETS AND OTHER VEGGIES

Last Chance to order veggies and flowers! Veggie starters and daisies are ready for pick up. May 15th pickup for tomatoes, geraniums, and hanging baskets. Great growing weather and lots to see in the garden. **Greenhouse staff 100% vaccinated but mask still required.** Mount St. Mary Hospital thanks you as well! Ellis Achtem, 250-477-6754 or eachtem@shaw.ca

SATURDAY COMMUNION

Father William will be distributing communion in the parking lot the first Saturday of every month, after mass from 5pm-6pm. The upcoming date for outdoor communion is **Saturday, May 1st**. Protocol is the same as it was at Easter: drive into the parking lot and volunteers will be there to direct you. **Please stay in your vehicle.** If you have any questions about this please call the parish office: 250-477-5321.

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>

**SCAM
ALERT!**

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!

A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT'S SCHOOL

Never too many pictures of chickens and children!

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/photos/a.120998564629612/4281401901922570>



PRAYER REFLECTION

If you wish to know the mind of a person, listen to their words. If you want to know their hearts, watch their actions.

—Lisa Prozen

When we are crushed like grapes, we cannot think of the wine we will become.

—Henri Nouwen

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life . . . I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it.

—Galatians 1:13

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: Pope Francis has called for a “marathon” of prayer in May for an end to the pandemic. Please find below a picture and short message to be shared with your communities. This has also been posted on the diocesan site at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/join-pope-francis-in-prayer-for-an-end-to-the-pandemic>.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization has issued a press release with more information about the month of prayer for an end to the pandemic. They’ve also provided a short liturgical guide which may be of interest: it includes an outline of the prayer service that will be used and a list of the shrines and special intentions which will be featured each day. Canada’s national Marian shrine, Notre Dame du Cap, is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd.

Liturgical guide: <http://www.pcpne.va/content/dam/pcpne/pdf/Eventi/rosario2021/Sussidio%20Rosario%202021%20Inglese.pdf>

Full press release: <http://www.pcpne.va/content/pcpne/en/news/2021-04-23.html>

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 will be livestreamed from Holy Cross Parish, Saturday, May 1st: Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, May 1st

Intention: Peter Montgomery +

SUNDAY, May 2nd

Intention: Clive Loader +

MONDAY, May 3rd

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, May 4th

Intention: Clive Loader +

WEDNESDAY, May 5th

Intention: Mary Rose Cheshire +

THURSDAY, May 6th

Intention: Clive Loader +

FRIDAY, May 7th

Intention: Clive Loader +

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 April 25th, 2021

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$ 1,842.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,677.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,519.00



April 30, 2021

Dear fellow parishioners of Holy Cross and St. Patrick's:

Holy Cross Parish and St. Patrick's are both members of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT), a coalition of civil society organizations composed of faith groups, trade unions, non-profits and post-secondary students advocating for the greater good. One of our research groups is focused on Mental Health, with a particular interest in the well-being of children and youth. A sub-group, of which I am part, is focusing on the proposed school board budget cuts for the 2021/22 school year.

School District 61 (Greater Victoria) is proposing cuts to programs such as Grades 5 to 8 Music, Reading Recovery, Educational Assistants and Family and Youth Counsellors. Such services are particularly critical given the impact of the pandemic on students' anxiety and mental health.

We are aware that the adverse impact of the COVID pandemic on school districts has caused a serious budget crisis. School districts are legally proscribed from running deficits, and rely on the Province to respond appropriately with funding in situations like the pandemic. Emergency funding was provided for the current year.

We are urging the Province to allocate contingency funds to districts to stop cuts, so that schools can continue to be safe and inspiring places for students, when they return in the new school year.

I have provided a template of a sample letter, and am urging concerned parishioners of Holy Cross and St. Patrick's to write to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance, with copies to your MLA. and opposition members prior to May 10th. Email addresses attached. Please feel free to personalize your letters with stories of how you, a family member, or a friend have been helped by these programs.

Thank you for your help!

Mary Nall
Member of the Holy Cross Social and Eco-Justice Justice Committee (SEJC)

[Date]

To: The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education
The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance

Dear Ministers Whiteside and Robinson:

Re: Additional Funding to School Districts to Prevent Cutting Vital Programs

The lack of additional funding for education in the recently announced budget is a disappointment. Districts across the province are facing unprecedented costs coming out of the pandemic academic year of 2020/2021, coupled with halted revenue streams. As school districts are legally mandated to have a balanced budget, they are looking to cut vital programs that will irrevocably harm school cultures and the mental health of students and teachers.

[See the backgrounder for a list of jeopardized programs. If possible, add a personal story to tell how you, a family member, or a friend have benefitted from one or more of these programs.]

In the budget, more than 3 billion dollars have been put aside as contingency funds. I urge the government to allocate a small slice of this to the school districts to stop cuts. Mental health is a priority for your government, and I cannot think of a better way to ensure the mental health of students and teachers across this province during the pandemic than having programs remain as they are, and for schools to continue being a safe and inspiring place for all students.

Sincerely,
[name &
address]

c. c. The Honorable John Horgan, etc.
[your MLA]

Politicians' names and email addresses.

Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education: EDUC.minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

To find your MLA email address: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/content-committees/Pages/MLA-Contact-Information.aspx>

Please consider also sending your letter to:

Hon. John Horgan, Premier: premier@gov.bc.ca

Jackie Tegart, Official Opposition for Education: jackie.tegart.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Mike Bernier, Official Opposition for Finance: mike.bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Shirley Bond, interim leader of the Liberal Party: shirley.bond.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Sonia Furstenau, leader of the Green Party: sonia.furstenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca