



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 31, 2020 Pentecost Sunday

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE. Pentecost, God's Spirit rests upon us; today our church reopens to our liturgy and to our church family. Thank you Fr. William for giving us the opportunity to choose one of six Holy Cross Church Masses, 12 options including St. Pat's, Masses or to continue online Mass attendance.

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Pentecost. Jesus offers his peace, infuses his Holy Spirit and declares, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained". Jesus addressed these words to his apostles and their successors. He addresses the same words to us, today, and we glimpse their power.

With these words Jesus gives us utter, total, complete freedom. He gives us the freedom to choose, the freedom to choose to forgive those who have sinned against us and to forgive ourselves and the freedom to choose to hold on to, not to forgive, the sins of those who have sinned against us and not to forgive ourselves. Every manner of 'sin' is covered with this freedom from the smallest, quickly forgotten hurts to the most unspeakable or horrendous wrongs done to us or done by us. We have the freedom to choose - regardless of whom, regardless of what.

When we choose not to forgive the wrongs of others, not to forgive ourselves the door of our heart is closed and locked. We become prisoners, as it were, of 'an event' and that event stays with us often coming to our conscious mind without warning. It holds power over us. In fact we live out of that choice not to forgive. In such a state it is very difficult to grow in the life of the spirit and instead we live in slavery to our unforgiving heart.

When we choose to forgive others or ourselves we live free; we live out of unconditional love that very same unconditional love Jesus had for us on the cross. In forgiving, the pain of hurt may not soon be lost to forgotten memories, relationships may not be restored. But, we change. Love comes alongside us and resides in our hearts. That unconditional love, that mercy, expressed in forgiveness is the peace that God gives us in today's gospel. And, when Jesus says, "Receive the Holy Spirit" the power of that spirit within us is God's grace aiding our forgiveness of others and of ourselves, for we can't do it alone or by our own resolve. God gives us all the grace necessary for us to lean into forgiveness, to lean into his infinite love to support us and to be with us every step of the way. In such a state we live out of God's presence within ourselves, within others and indeed within all of creation. We live changed forever, transformed by love.

At Eucharistic this Sunday when Fr. William prays over the offerings he will pray, "that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth". Let us know, let us remember that the hidden mystery, the truth of this sacrifice is the mystery of forgiveness to which we are lovingly called.

"As we forgive those who trespass against us;"

Trudy Holden

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 (full)    **Sunday:** 9am Mass (full)

*\*please note that if these Masses are inconvenient for you, you may select a Mass time from St. Patrick’s Parish Mass schedule. To do this please call Deborah Mackay at St. Pat’s at: 250-592-7391*

## QUOTES TO PONDER

Trying to do the Lord’s work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.

—Corrie Ten Boom

At Pentecost . . . like the limbs of a single body, the separated members of the human race would be restored to unity by being joined to Christ, their common head, and welded into the oneness of a holy body by the fire of love.

—Augustine of Hippo

The Love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

—Entrance antiphon for Mass



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 *Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, May 30 at 4 pm on the YouTube page.*

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

## CONFESSIONS

Many of you have been inquiring about confessions. At this time Fr. William will be hearing confessions by appointments only. Therefore, please email Father directly at **whann@rcdvictoria.org** to schedule an appointment.

## OFFERTORY

At this time, there will be no offertory during the mass. There will be a basket for donation located at the front of the church by the altar, and if you wish, you may leave your contribution envelopes there before or after mass.

## PROTOCOLS AND DIRECTIVES

Upon entering the church you will notice that things look very different. Please take a moment to read the “Golden Rules of COVID-19” poster attached to the bulletin email, and posted in different locations of the church. Please also do your best to follow the floor markers “directing traffic flow” in the church. It will take the cooperation of everyone to keep our church safe, accessible and open. Thank you for your support!