



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - November 17, 2024
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

On this Sunday, the readings traditionally speak about the end of the world, the end of time, the final coming of Jesus to take all peoples and all creation to himself. Why these readings and how best to explain them? Today's first and third readings must be handled with caution. In some fundamentalist circles, these texts are used to work out some sort of timetable for the end of the world. What is even more unfortunate, there are some preachers who use these texts to frighten people. I do not intend to get technical here but let me simply say this about it: when we find in some parts of the bible strange images that look like mysterious predictions and at first sight look threatening, then we are dealing with what is called apocalyptic literature. This is a literary device which does not intend to frighten us, or to predict the end of the world for us. On the contrary, it is the opposite that is intended. What these texts try to instill in us is not fear but hope and confidence. These texts do not try to give us some sort of inside information about when and how the end will come about, but rather a sense of seriousness and urgency about the present moment. And in practical terms, we are called to bear other people's afflictions, everyone has courage and enough to spare. This Sunday is World Day of the Poor and bearing other people's burdens is truly the Christian way! In our world we face our own trials and tests as we live out our Christian lives. Our commitment to Christ can cause us discomfort and even suffering. The gospel encourages Christians to remain strong and faithful during such times of duress and assures us that Jesus will be revealed as the real King and Lord of creation.

The only way is to live today and every day in his love and service. It is the present which determines the future; so, let us just concentrate on the here and now. Then we have already entered the Lord's Kingdom and when, early, or late, he comes to call us to himself, it will just be a reunion of old friends. In fact, he is already here and has always been and always will be. It is not that he will come to us but that we will enter a deeper relationship with him when we pass through death to a different kind of life. So, when we entrust each other with the sacred story of our lives and realize Jesus is the clue that connects us we give meaning amid all the doom and gloom. Therein lay our challenge: bring our faith to the culture and accept that our purpose as Christians and Catholics is to live out what Christ lived out and, on that journey, remain in his presence. We look to Jesus, who said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Those words, or teachings, give us a way of living that embraces actions of peace and community. What sorts of turmoil or trauma would be prevented if we lived them? We look to Jesus, who will "come again". The one who continues to suffer, and die will raise us up. There is hope. There is resurrection. There is new life! In short, today's readings might be saying: "I might be "Good Friday", but Easter Sunday is coming." To quote Maya Angelou. ...*in a world so rife with vulgarity, with brutality and violence, love exists. I'm grateful to know that it exists.*

Eyes on Jesus,
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30am-3:30pm
Closed Friday Nov 22nd

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC
V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org
www.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 Holy Cross on Saturday at 4pm. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Bishop's Appeal Update

The *Sharing God's Gifts* Appeal is very active in all parishes throughout the Diocese of Victoria and I am happy to announce that 96 families of Holy Cross have contributed thus far and we have raised \$42,310 towards our goal. This is an encouraging start and we are asking you to join your fellow parishioners in supporting this Appeal with a gift. We need your support because your contribution will make a difference! Our parish project is supporting Anawim House and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (locally & internationally). Parish Goal: \$ 70,000

Upcoming Ministry Fair : A Call for Volunteers

Please join us for the 2024 Holy Cross Ministry Fair following both the 4pm and 9am Mass on November 16 and 17th. We are in need of support in various ministries. Volunteer descriptions and sign up sheets will be placed on tables at the back of the church. Snacks and drinks will be available.

Note: (1) Please do not sign up for a ministry which you already serve. (2) CRC, Covenant of Care forms, and Praesidium will only be required if it has not yet been completed previously.

FUDGE SALES

Birthright will be selling specialty Fudges after weekend Masses on Nov 23/24 (The packets make great stocking stuffers or gifts for the holiday table and freeze well!) Birthright assists women in difficult or crisis pregnancies, offering hope and encouraging Mothers to give the precious gift of Life to their babies - how fitting as we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child! Please consider supporting this worthwhile cause.

CWL Christmas Luncheon Saturday, December 14th

CWL Christmas Luncheon tickets are now available for Members at \$30, & Non-Members at \$36. Purchase tickets at St. Patrick's Parish office, open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 3pm. Last day to buy is Wed Dec 4th. Come and join your CWL sisters for some good food, conversation, and a few laughs to celebrate this Advent & Christmas season. Call or email St. Patrick's Parish for more information: stpat190@telus.net / (250) 592-7391

BUILDING TOGETHER! - LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION FOR NEW OLOR CHURCH

Save the date: Friday, November 29th from 6pm to 9om at Royal Colwood Golf Course, 629 Goldstream Avenue (enter on Fairway Avenue off Goldstream Avenue). This silent auction will raise funds to build our new church. Admission: \$50.00 a ticket which includes appetizers and a drink. To purchase tickets, contact Cynthia at 250-478-3482/ olorchurch@rcdvictoria.org. If you would like to purchase tickets via e-transfer instead, please contact Bob and Judy at 250-474-2119, e-transfer: bob.sicotte@gmail.com

November Indigenous Book Fair

In support of Truth and Reconciliation, Holy Cross's Social and Ecological Justice Committee has organized a book fair showcasing books authored by Indigenous people from our library. This collection includes authors from BC, books geared to young readers and much more. Please sign out books in the notebook provided. Please return the books to the table or the return box in the foyer ... Thank you!

Prayer for the Children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross Preparing for First Reconciliation

Merciful God, help us to ask forgiveness when we need to. Help us to forgive others who have wronged us. And let us be peacemakers in our school and in our family. We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and love. Amen.

We have 16 children preparing for their First Reconciliation to be held on Saturday December 7, 2024 at 11am at Holy Cross Parish with a reception to follow in the parish hall. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a potluck dish to share. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

Word of the Week:

Also known as the **presidential chair**, the seat in a parish church from which the celebrant leads the assembly during Mass. Its meaning derives from the **chair**, or *cathedra* in Latin, from which the diocesan bishop *presides* (from Latin meaning “to protect” or literally “to sit before”). The **chair** is a liturgical symbol of authority and pastoral leadership. The **chair** reminds us that we have been summoned by God as his people. We are his Church, gathered in unity to encounter Christ Jesus in the Word and in the Sacraments, under the presidency of a pastor who represents Christ himself. The **presidential chair** in the parish church should be placed prominently in a presiding position without suggesting dominance or remoteness.

Catholics employ ritual because symbols talk. Our liturgical rituals include sacramental elements like bread and wine but also gestures, postures, movement, and placement. The four main pieces of liturgical furniture—altar, ambo, baptismal font, and **presider's chair**—say much before a word is spoken. By their substance, design, and placement, each station and the actions initiated there would tell a stranger to our rituals that they are significant. From the General Instruction of the Roman Missal: “The **chair of the priest celebrant** must signify his office of presiding over the gathering and of directing the prayer. Any appearance of a throne, however, is to be avoided” (310).

In prayer, more is accomplished by listening than by talking.
—*Saint Jane Frances De Chantal*

In a world so rife with vulgarity, with brutality and violence, love exists. I'm grateful to know that it exists.
—*Maya Angelou*

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, November 16, 2024

4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, November 17, 2024

9AM MASS: Isabel & Manuel Pacheco+

MONDAY, November 18, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, November 19, 2024

9 AM MASS: John Turnbull

WEDNESDAY, November 20,

2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, November 21, 2024

9 AM MASS: John Bidlake+

FRIDAY, November 22 2024

NO MASS

OFFICE CLOSED

The Chapel will be open this week Tuesday to Thursday 9 - 12

Reconciliation is available on Saturday, November 16, at 3:00pm

Please note the office will be closed Friday November 22rd for the Diocesan Faith Day Training.

Job Posting: Senior Accountant

The Diocese is now accepting applications for the position of Senior Accountant. The job posting may be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. The posting will be open until the position is filled.

Sunday Missal Sales

2024-2025 Sunday Missals will be sold for \$5 before and after mass in the foyer on November 9/10th, and November 16/17th. Please bring cash.

Confession Availability and Clergy Support

Confession Times:

St. Patrick's: Friday 11:30 – 12:00
St. Joseph's: 1/2 hour before Mass
Sacred Heart: Saturday 3:00 – 3:45
Our Lady of Fatima: Saturday 4:00

Clergy Consult:

Please call the Parish offices.
St. Patrick's: (250) 592-7391
St. Joseph's: (250) 479-7413
Sacred Heart: (250)-479-1611
Our Lady of Fatima: (250) 658-1587

Hearing Loop System

If you wear hearing aids, switch your hearing aid to T-Coil and you will be connected to the hearing loop system. See: www.advancedlistening.ca

COLLECTIONS , November 10, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$	1620.00
Loose	\$	391.50
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$	1332.90
Charitable Impact Foundation	\$	3000.00
Total	\$	6344.40

Thank you to all who supported as volunteers at our Remembrance Day Service. A special thank you to the veterans and their family members!

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Thank you to the parishioner who donated and packaged all the Dried Rosemary recently sold in the Foyer. We raised \$150 for church florals!

News from the Chancery

- 1) Remembrance Day, observed on Monday, November 11, was an opportunity to remember with faith and gratitude those who defend others, and to pray for peace in a troubled world. To read more, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/honouring-sacrifice-and-seeking-peace-a-reflection-on-remembrance-day>
- 2) This Sunday, November 17, is the World Day of the Poor – an annual reminder from Pope Francis to focus on poverty as central to the Gospel message. To learn more, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/world-day-of-the-poor-a-call-to-compassion-and-action>
- 3) Wednesday, November 20 is “Red Wednesday”, an annual initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the persecution of Christians globally. To learn more, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/red-wednesday-standing-in-solidarity-with-persecuted-christians-worldwide>
- 4) St. Andrew’s Cathedral is seeking a Director of Musical Worship (DOMW) to start in July 2025. The DOMW is responsible for the planning, coordination and fulfillment of all liturgical music ministry at the Cathedral Parish. For more information, please visit <https://www.standrewscathedral.com/bulletin.html?job-posting-domw>. Applications and enquiries should be directed to Father Dean Henderson, Rector of the Cathedral, at dhenderson@rcdvictoria.org.
- 5) Registration is still open for the 2024 Diocesan Faith Day: “A Conversation in the Spirit”. Our keynote speaker is Linda Staudt, one of the seven laypeople in North America chosen by Pope Francis to serve as a voting participant in Synod 2021–2024. She will share her reflections on the Synod and synodality, and lead us through a discernment method rooted in prayer, listening, and silence. The Faith Day will be held on Saturday, November 23 from 9:30 am – 3 pm at St. Edward’s Church in Duncan. For more information and to register, please visit <https://diocesan-faith-day-2024.eventbrite.com>
- 6) On Saturday, November 30, Bishop Gary Gordon will celebrate Mass at St. Andrew’s Cathedral in Victoria at 9:30 am. November 30 is the Feast of St. Andrew, and also marks the date of the first Fall Plenary of the Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod; delegates from each parish in the Diocese will attend the Mass as the start of their gathering. All are invited to participate in the Mass, either in person or via the livestream at <https://youtube.com/live/LwCINLh34jI?feature=share>

The Monthly Sunday Night Bridge

Monthly Sunday Bridge in the Parish Hall will continue on December 1st. Please contact the office at office@holycrossvictoria.org to be connected to Tony Southwell for further information.

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.

Pastor: Vacant

Executive Team:

Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar, David Begg

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord
250-477-5321 / office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake
250-477-5321 / officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow
mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

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

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:

4pm Saturday,

9am Sunday;

9am Tuesday and Thursday

Mass times - St. Patrick’s Parish:

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday;

12:10pm Tuesday-Friday