



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - November 20th 2022
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

The celebration of Christ the King is a challenging celebration for many in today's church. The image of the King and his Kingdom offends some contemporary sensibilities—especially in democratized parts of the world, and for at least half of the human population: many women find the image particularly disturbing. To some, the image seems too militaristic, too triumphal, too undemocratic, hierarchical and certainly too patriarchal. Yet, the king presented in today's liturgy is nothing like what we've read about or heard kings are supposed to be like. The king Christians celebrate today seems, on the one hand, so much less than a real king or as I so often say, king backward. This feast day invites us to open our eyes to a new reality where nobility is not inherited but earned; where goodness is not assumed but demonstrated. That is the upside-down world of Christianity: Everyone is deemed worthy to sit at the table of the king, and the king, in turn, is servant to us all.

In Luke's writings, one of the most important words is *today*. It's the operative term for Luke's readers, who understand that the words and actions of Jesus have authority right now as they did in his generation. We might sit up straight and listen intently to the power that Luke means to convey in the phrase, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." This isn't a promise of heavenly reward for a life well lived. This is a covenant with a condemned criminal that, despite what he has done, the absolute authority of divine forgiveness is available and at work in the present hour to set him free.

If we understand Luke clearly, this story is our story. Luke is the only gospel writer who includes a "good thief" along with the bad one. The other gospel writers mention only the mockery of the others crucified with Jesus. Luke, whose constant theme is the forgiveness of sins, reveals that we are all condemned to suffer and die in our sins *unless* and *until* we ask to be held in the holy memory of Jesus. "Holy memory," as we know, is the Greek term for *anamnesis*, the power of the Eucharist that makes what we remember present now. If we want a share in the Kingdom of Jesus here and now, today, we will find it in this celebration of the forgiveness of sins. It is in our Eucharist that Jesus exercises his kingship, and all who are citizens of his reign come to this table.

It is easy to say: "Christ is my king". To make elaborate displays of homage. To sing triumphalist hymns. To pride ourselves on being "Christian". But are we willing to accept the invitation to live in his kingdom? We've spent the month of November thinking about the end of our lives, the end of the lives of those we love, the end of the very world and the universe that maintains and grows us. This final Sunday of our liturgical year is what the end will look like. You have a role to play: how? The hard fact for all of us is that Jesus presents us with a difficult example of how to use power and what power is for--service, not conquest. Think differently! Think love! In a nutshell, that is the simple message of the Gospel: think love, be love, Go and do! On this last Sunday of the Church year that's a good message... think love, be love!!!!

Truth professing love makes real the presence of Christ

Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm
Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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.

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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>

CHRISTMAS 2022 AT ANAWIM HOUSE !!

Your continued generosity in support of Anawim Companions Society for so many years is very much appreciated. You have always answered the "cry of the poor" and helped us provide a safe environment for those seeking to make positive changes in their lives.

As you are all aware the need for this support is becoming greater with more challenges. This Christmas, as we have for more so many years, we would like to continue to provide a "family" Christmas dinner and gift giving. This will take place on **December 16th**.

We are asking for your help with donations of NEW warm winter clothing. There will be a decorated donation box in the entrance to your Church starting November 26th until December 18th.

If you would like to make a donation and are unable to attend your Church you can contact Anawim House at info@anawimhouse.com You can also call 250 382-0283. If you would prefer to make a financial donation you can donate through <https://www.anawimhouse.com/donations/?preview=true> or by mail to Anawim House, 973 Caledonia Ave. Victoria, B.C. V8T 1E7.

The very popular Island grown, fresh cut Christmas trees will be on sale at the house from **NOVEMBER 30TH** Mon.-Fri.: 10am to 8pm, Saturday: 9am to 7pm, Sunday: 11am to 6pm.

Event: Saturday, February 4, 2023-**Called and Gifted live workshop** with Sherry Weddell and Katherine Coolidge: Location: Holy Cross Parish: 9am to 3:30pm. An opportunity to discover God's call for your life God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you! **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Call of the Laity, Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory, Explained Role of the Holy Spirit, Charisms Discernment Process, Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World. Holy Cross and Saint Patrick's parishioners will have the opportunity to register first before I open it up to other parishes. Please register in the next two weeks at either Holy Cross office@holycrossvictoria.org; St. Patrick's Parish stpat190@telus.net.

Note from Catholic Prison Ministry

What a quick and generous response! On behalf of the entire volunteer catholic prison ministry team and the inmate community at William Head Institution, we thank you so much for your generosity. On the 33rd weekend in ordinary time, we asked for a few of the new Missals for use in prison worship. The response from Holy Cross was simply, "How many do we need?" We said only a few copies, but we were given a couple extras and it turned out that we needed them all. Your hands - God's plan. What a great community. Thank you so much for your service of the other! We also thank Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Andrew's Cathedral and Sacred Heart Parishes who each responded immediately and generously in supporting the request. We do have two slowly brewing requests coming up 1. Volunteers. Have you ever thought of prison ministry? Reach out to us and we can schedule a no commitment conversation to see, if this were an area in which would like to participate in the Mission of the GOSPEL. 2. Music. The music books in the chapel at the prison are dated and in poor condition. We would like to purchase new ones with the guitar and piano copies for leaders. Pray about it and we will update you with our needs as the plan matures. Thank you again. The entire worshipping community at William Head offers prayers of thanksgiving for your generosity. Deacon Dion Pomponio

Library Corner The Library table in the church foyer has a small display of books appropriate for the Advent season of Christmas. They are "Advent Retreats" with such notable Spiritual Directors as St John the Evangelist, Julian of Norwich, St Frances of Assisi, Catherine of Siena and several others. Please use the sign-out book and return when finished.

At the other end of the Table, our Parish Environment Committee has acquired some excellent books on the climate-change crisis. Pope Francis has led the way in our obligation to take care of God's nourishing earth.

Prayer Reflection

May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love.

—*Teresa of Ávila*

A leader . . . is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.

—*Nelson Mandela*

Advent Mission Opportunity: Sacred Heart Parish is happy to invite you to an **Advent Mission led by Bishop Gary**. As we begin our Advent journey, come and share the Hope, heralded by the promise of the birth of our Lord in our hearts and lives this Christmas. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent with a Mass at 9 a.m. on Sunday 27 November, the three-day Mission continues with a 7 p.m. Mass on Monday, 28 November, and will end with a Penitential Service at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 November 2022.

Hold the Date! In keeping with our annual tradition since 2016, an in-person **Write for Rights session** will be held at the Holy Cross Parish Hall right after the 9 am mass on **Sunday Dec. 11, 2022** – as part of an international letter-writing campaign organized by Amnesty International in defense of human rights around the world. More info forthcoming from the Social & Eco Justice Committee next week.



2022 Diocesan Faith Day

Join us on Saturday, November 26th as we journey together “Seeking Truth, Healing & Reconciliation” featuring keynote speaker, Most Reverend Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina.

We are a Church that is wounded and hurting, needing to search out our Pascal bearings and tell our story in a new way – to go deeper into the Pascal Mystery! How are we to be a Church (poor and for the poor) that reaches out in dialogue, seeking healing paths by walking together? More information and to register go to

<https://Diocesanfaithday2022.eventbrite.com>

OR email gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org OR Phone 250.479.1331 ext 230

Free bus transportation will be available, leaving at 7am from the Diocesan Centre. **Contact the office to be added to the bus transportation list. Limited spaces are available.**

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE **SATURDAY, November 19th**

3-3:45pm: Confession

4pm Mass: Raffaele Cupello+

SUNDAY, November 20th

9am Mass: Richard Faulkner+

MONDAY, November 21st

NO MASS

TUESDAY, November 22nd

9am Mass: Chi-Lit Chan+

WEDNESDAY, November 23rd

NO MASS

THURSDAY, November 24th

9am: Dr. Paul Dubord+

FRIDAY, November 25th

NO MASS

The Church will be open for private prayers from Tuesday to Friday 9am - noon

Masks are no longer mandatory indoors, though we do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. As always, if you are feeling unwell or symptomatic please stay home.

COLLECTION for Nov. 13th

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 1,900.00

Loose \$ 410.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$ 1,331.00

TOTAL \$ 3,641.00

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.

Thank you!

Special thanks go out this week to Trudy Holden for leading the hospitality for the Funeral Pre-planning workshop, and to Deborah Mackay for her invaluable assistance assembling the handout material for this workshop.

NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

Starting on Monday, November 21st, the Mass will be livestreamed from Sacred Heart Church in Victoria (4040 Nelthorpe St), and will also be open to those who wish to attend in person. This change has also been posted at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about>.

Message from Catholic Students' Association Please join us for our final Bored? Games Night at Multifaith on Thursday November 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm. Snack foods are always provided while engaging in fellowship, community building and making new friends.

An opportunity to serve the homeless can be arranged based on student interest on the First Sunday of Advent. Follow us on Instagram for more details; csa_ovic or contact lfoch@rcdvictoria.org

The Bishop's Diocesan Appeal **Growing Together** is at the "Encore" stage and gradually drawing to a close. Thank you to all who have given so generously. We are still considerably behind in meeting our Parish Goal of \$80,000, but hopefully we will gain ground in the upcoming weeks. Our two Parish projects, Anawim House for Women, and Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) are two very worthy causes that are in much need of our support. Please consider making a contribution and help make this year's Appeal a success. Thank you!



A new angle this time! Please ignore any emails you get offering an Interac transfer from the Bishop's Appeal! Thanks to the parishioners who brought this fraud to our attention!

Birthingright will be selling specialty Fudges after weekend Masses on Nov 26/27. (The packets make great stocking stuffers or gifts for the holiday table and freeze well!) Birthingright 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 Christ Child! Please consider supporting this worthwhile cause.

Mass, Crafts and Community! The Gospel Gals would like to invite you to join them for 9:00 am Mass on Thursday, December 01. After Mass mozey on over to the parish hall where everything will be set up and ready for you to make your very own fun Christmas Craft. After your creative creations you'll have the chance to visit each other as you enjoy tea/coffee and yummy treats, provided by the Gospel Gals. Numbers are limited so don't delay, call the office to register today! 250-477-5321

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

Children's Religious Education: Barbara Shenton

bshenton@rcdvictoria.org

Gift Bearers are needed for the Saturday 4pm Mass. Please contact Joanie Bidlake if you are able to offer to participate in this Ministry once a month. 250-477-5321, or email officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org.

Missals for the New Liturgical Year Missals will be sold before and after the Masses this weekend. The price remains unchanged from previous years at \$5.00. If you have exact change, it would be most appreciated. If there are any remaining copies, these can be purchased during office hours.

MEN'S DUPLICATE BRIDGE

The men's duplicate bridge group will be meeting in the Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested please contact Robert Northcott at 250 882 8072 or rbnorthcott@shaw.ca