

# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

**SUNDAY - October 1, 2023**  
**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The readings today portray how much God values life, our life, a life in Christ, a life working towards a greater good, fulfilling God's will, and responding to God's call. We see how Christ responds to God's invitation to work in God's vineyard. With humility, surrender, obedience, trust, and a willingness to serve the Other, Jesus places himself into God's hands, asking us to do the same. God's breath fills us with precious life, gifts freely given to us to do God's work here and now! So how do we respond? With a resounding yes as we go into the world ready to do God's work? With empty words, promises, or excuses? Lukewarm...sitting on the fence...hedging our bets? Do we even value the life God has given us?

We are reminded of God's abundant mercy and steadfast love for us, a mercy and love that is beyond our understanding, one that continuously envelops us no matter where we are on the road of life. God's compassion and forgiveness knocks on our *exiled* hearts. What 'barriers' have we put up that keep us from God's loving embrace? Acts of rebellion, defiance, justification, finger pointing ... casting blame, claiming victimhood, living in the sin of Adam (we don't need God)? Not believing in our goodness and God's goodness? Not trusting and believing that God's sacrificial love destroyed death and all obstacles of separation in our relationship with God? Doubt and despair, darkness and isolation will grip our hearts AND God is there loving us through it all.

God challenges us to live life grounded in truth and responsibility. Only when we own up to and accept responsibility for our transgressions will we be free to fall into God's embrace. Repentance is not a burden, it's an active, deliberate, conscious choice to step forward into God's grace. Repentance is choosing life with God. We are people of the light. We know Christ. God urges us to choose life over death. Our foundation is a merciful, steadfast God who loves us, instructs us, and humbly serves, calling us to do the same.

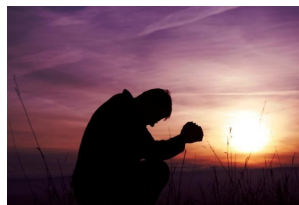
A father asks his sons to 'go and work in the vineyard.' Why would he do that? He is the owner of the vineyard, his sons are the heirs! They don't need to work, do they? What is the purpose of this request? Think about it. How does work benefit us? It enables us to develop our skills and talents; it gives us a sense of purpose and self-respect; it creates friendships, relationships, and gives us a deeper understanding of people and cultures; it fosters unity, a sense of family working together for a greater good. Work is a gift and a blessing. The father knows the value of work. He knows that the work will benefit his sons and the others working in the vineyard.

In this gospel story, both sons respond with disrespect and defiance toward their father. Their words and actions portray a lack of commitment and accountability. Entitlement, maybe fear motivates them. What motivates us to choose life in God or life without God?

Take some time this week to really pray and reflect on your response to God, the barriers you put in place that cause separation, and what motivates you in it all. Look to Jesus, meditate on his response, posture, and motivation. No words are needed.

God's abundant harvest,

Mona



## OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm

Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC

V8N 3X7

Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844

office@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](https://www.rcd-victoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.bishopreportingsystem.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

## 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>

### Baptismal Prep

Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a registration form and complete a Baptismal Preparation course. Please note that the next session for Baptismal Preparation is Saturday, October 21st (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email [hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org) with your name and contact information. The coordinator will email you a registration form.

### Volunteers needed for Sacramental Preparation/RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children)

We are hoping to train new Catechists. If you have a desire to grow in and share faith and an awareness of God's grace and desire to respond to that grace, this opportunity is for you. Effective catechists are patient, responsible, confident and creative. You bring a generosity of spirit, respect for diversity and a habit of hospitality and inclusion. We provide training resources to understand Catholic teaching, Scripture and Tradition and skills development to teach children/youth and their families. If you are interested, contact Holy Cross or St Patrick's parish office.

### 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](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

### Sacramental Preparation Classes for Children (7+ yrs old)

Registration forms available online:

<https://stpatsvictoria.com/religious-education>

<https://www.holycrossvictoria.org/education.php>

Please attend the Parent Info Session to be held on Sunday Oct 15, 10:15 am (30 min) at St Patrick's. First Reconciliation session begins on Oct 22 and Confirmation & First Eucharist in January. All classes take place at St Patrick's on Sundays.



### Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis

The film, "The Sultan and the Saint" will be shown at St. Patrick's Lourdes Hall, 2060 Haultain St. on Wed. Oct. 4 at 7 pm. A remarkable film about Muslim-Christian peace. All are welcome, popcorn provided. This concludes the Season of Creation in which Pope Francis called us to Care for our Common Home.



### IT'S ALMOST HERE... CWL Annual Fall Bazaar. Good Used Clothing and Books Sale!!

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30am -4:00pm & Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 2:00pm. Fall would not be same at St. Patrick's Parish without this amazing event that combines great bargains, and warm fellowship for our twinned St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Parish communities. Come and experience it , you won't be disappointed, there will be something for everyone!



### Library Corner

The first couple weeks of October honour the feast-day memory of two kindred spirits --- kindred in their simplicity and humility: St Francis who founded the mendicant Franciscan Order in 1210, and St John XXIII who initiated and guided within our own lifetime, the Second Vatican Council 1962-65



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_of\\_Assisi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_of_Assisi), <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/what-humans-can-learn-dogs-feast-st-francis>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_John\\_XXIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_John_XXIII) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpeZm3DWlcU> . **NB SKIP ADS**

In the Biography Section of the parish hall library, look for A Man Named John 23 by A Hatch and The Road to Assisi by P Sabatier



**Prayer Reflection**

Things may not be logical or fair, but when God is directing the events of our lives, they are right.

—Luci Swindel

The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs.

—Joan Didion

You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature. . . . Each of us has been grafted onto the church by faith the Lord calls branches, and he urges us to bear much fruit.

—Saint Basil the Great

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 1, 2023**

The invitation to serve often comes more than once; are you prepared with your answer? Consider ministry as a priest, deacon, sister or brother. Are you being invited? Contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

**Fr. David Hogman:** [dhogman@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:dhogman@rcdvictoria.org)

**Fr. Harrison Ayre:** [hayre@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hayre@rcdvictoria.org)



**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

The **Children's Liturgy of the Word** program will be starting up at Holy Cross on **Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> at the 9am Mass**. Children aged 5-11 are welcome to join. Children's Liturgy of the Word is an opportunity for the children to join their leader to review and discuss the weekly gospel at an age-appropriate level. There will be relevant activities to accompany the message each week. We look forward to bringing the children of Holy Cross together to celebrate the light and the love of Jesus Christ.



**JOIN US FOR OUR  
 DIOCESAN CONFERENCE**

*Redeeming*  
**CONFLICT**

*ONE MESSY SITUATION AT A TIME*

**with Ann Garrido**

As Christians we tend to associate conflict with sin, but how we handle our tensions with one another can be one of the most profound witnesses we offer in the world. Speaking out of her own experience as a part-time theology nerd and part-time conflict mediator, author Ann Garrido will share insights into how we can make our tensions part of our spiritual journey.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 2023**

**8:30 AM - 3:30PM**

**(FOLLOWED BY 4PM MASS)**

**HOLY CROSS PARISH**

**4049 GORDON HEAD ROAD, VICTORIA**

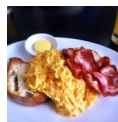
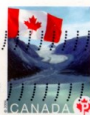
TO REGISTER:

[HTTPS://DOFVREDEEMINGCONFLICT.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://DOFVREDEEMINGCONFLICT.EVENTBRITE.COM)

**Social Eco-Justice Committee**

**Collection October 8th**

For Oct. 8, you will find a special collection envelope marked "Social Eco Justice Committee Offering." Please be generous in supporting the work of this joint Holy Cross/St. Pat's committee. Your donations will go towards sponsoring a meal at Our Place, paying for postage for the annual Write for Rights session, providing an honorarium to invited speakers at our educational workshops, and other worthy causes.



**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE**

**SATURDAY, September 30th**

4PM Mass: Saverina+ & Angelo Falvo+

**SUNDAY, October 1, 2023**

9AM Mass: Father William Murphy+

**MONDAY, October 2nd**

NO MASS

**TUESDAY, October 3rd**

9AM Mass: Ethan Stone+

**WEDNESDAY, October 4th**

NO MASS

**THURSDAY, October 5th**

9AM Mass: Eric Qualley (Int)

**FRIDAY, October 6th**

NO MASS

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**The Chapel will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon**

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

**ADORATION**

**9am** First Friday of the Month in the Chapel - to be held **October 6th**

**Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.**

**COLLECTIONS September 17, 2023**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS**

Envelopes	\$ 1,480.00
Loose	\$ 335.00
Canda Helps donations	\$ 173.71
Needs of the Church	\$ 380.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,370.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,738.71</b>

**Thank you!** Thank you to all of the volunteers who took care of set up, take down and hospitality for the Locarno Concert held on September 24th! Thanks also to Dan and Bernadette Maclsaac for providing sound equipment and working at the sales table. You are all blessings to this community!

## **News from the Chancery**

- 1) Representatives from Catholic Indigenous organizations came together last week with Catholic Bishops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States for the International Conference on Catholic Indigenous Ministry. For more information, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/conference-seeks-to-promote-dialogue-between-bishops-and-indigenous-catholics>.
- 2) This week marks the annual Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), which brings together members of the CCCB from across Canada for discussion on a broad range of topics affecting the Catholic faithful in Canada. For more information, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/the-2023-cccb-plenary-assembly>.
- 3) As the Season of Creation draws to a close, Pope Francis has announced that he will be releasing “*Laudate Deum*”, his next Apostolic Exhortation on the environment, on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information, please visit <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-09/laudate-deum-to-be-title-of-pope-s-exhortation-on-climate.html>.
- 4) October 4 also marks the opening of the first session of the Universal Phase of Synod 2021-2024. His Eminence Mario Cardinal Grech, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, has invited the faithful to participate in prayer for the Synod. For more information, please visit <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2023-09/cardinal-mario-grech-invitation-episcopate-priests-prayer-synod.html>.
- 5) Holy Trinity Parish in Nanaimo invites everyone to join them at their church (6234 Spartan Rd) on Saturday, October 7 at 3:00 pm to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, where they will pray for the healing of ancestral rifts within family trees through the 'Healing of the Family Tree Rosary'. For more information, please contact the parish office at [holytrinity@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:holytrinity@rcdvictoria.org) or (250) 390-2612.
- 6) All are invited to our Diocesan Conference “Redeeming Conflict: One Messy Situation at a Time” with Catholic speaker and author, Ann Garrido. The conference will be held at Holy Cross Parish in Victoria on Saturday, November 4 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, followed by Mass with the Holy Cross community at 4:00 pm. As Christians, we tend to associate conflict with sin, but how we handle our tensions with one another can be one of the most profound witnesses we offer in the world. Speaking out of her own experience as a part-time theology nerd and part-time conflict mediator, author Ann Garrido will share insights into how we can make our tensions part of our spiritual journey. For more information and to register please visit <https://DofVRedeemingConflict.eventbrite.com>; any questions can be directed to Margaret Gwyn at [mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mgwyn@rcdvictoria.org) or 250-479-1331 ext 227.

### **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](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**University Chaplain:** Dan Taft

[campuschaplain@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:campuschaplain@rcdvictoria.org)

**Parish Council Chair:** Catherine Davis

**Sacramental Preparation:** Michele Bristow

[mbristow@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:mbristow@rcdvictoria.org)

**Baptismal Preparation:** Beverly Pulyk

[hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org)



### **Hearing Loop System**

Holy Cross Parish is equipped with a 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. Further information can be obtained at [www.advancedlistening.ca](http://www.advancedlistening.ca)

### **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.