



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - October 6, 2024

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings give us an opportunity to examine and speak about relationships—relationships of all kinds. There is an ideal to strive for in our relationships. Christ holds up the importance of faithfulness in relationships. He says, simply, that we are called to be faithful and in our closest relationships we are to be totally faithful. Otherwise, how would we trust the faithfulness of God? Even divorced people agree with this. Unfaithfulness was, after all, the source of their pain and suffering. Not the unfaithfulness necessarily of adultery. I mean simply the many ways in which any of us is unfaithful to each other or to our calling. Christ gives us an ideal. It is about the "completeness" of human relationships.

Yes, we must uphold the ideal, because it is God's vision, God's dream; and it is also the dream with which all married couples begin. But we must also be realistic and acknowledge the fact that the ideal cannot always be realized. There are marriages that, however enthusiastically and generously begun, turn sour. It may be because of an ever-growing incompatibility between the two in question, or it may be because one of the marriage partners is no longer prepared to invest themselves in what they have begun together. Whatever the reason, we have no right to throw stones, or turn our backs, or hold up an insensitive law against those persons in whom the ideal cannot come true and who now must face the shattering of their dreams. When a marriage breaks down, it is safe to say that in most instances it is preceded and followed by a great amount of suffering, pain, and anguish. In those instances, we as a Christian community must make sure not to add to the pain by ostracizing the people whose marriage has broken down. Rather we must show ourselves to be ministers of healing, channels of peace to deeply wounded people.

What Jesus says here about the issue of divorce is clearly time conditioned. That means we must be very careful if we want to apply what he says to the issue of divorce as it exists today. At the time of Jesus, a Jewish husband could divorce his wife on grounds that were almost without limits. It was all part of a male-dominated society in which the wife was in an extremely vulnerable position. The legislation of the time reduced the wife to the rank of the disposables; the husband could get rid of her at his convenience. It is to this arbitrariness that Jesus objects. He sets limits to the "injustice" of the husband's position. And he challenges the legal system that protected the husband, but that made the wife all too often into a defenseless victim. Jesus did not spout doctrine and exclude people until they got it right! He showed compassion and care for the tax collector, the woman caught in adultery, and the woman at the well, just to name a few outside of Jesus's society's norms. We all need to remember that we all belong to God's family, regardless of our family status!

The controversy about divorce still plagues the contemporary church, which recognizes marriage as a union until death. At the same time, it struggles with the hard reality that some marriages simply die. Divorce and re-marriage are one of the thorniest and most painful pastoral challenges of the church today. Where do we go with our brokenness? In all relationships and in his encounters, Jesus dealt with it and so must we. We are a bruised and broken humanity in a bruised and broken church, and we must take all of it to the Eucharist where Jesus contains it and transforms it into healing and reconciliation. In doing so, we become those agents of healing and create parishes and communities where all thrive. The Eucharist that we celebrate today is also in itself a nuptial meal, a wedding banquet, calling us to fidelity to our faith and to the fullness of life in the Kingdom. Let us do all that we can, in any way that we can, to strengthen both marriage and family life in our communities and in our societies. As we pray these scripture readings, may we ask the Holy Spirit to help us live and thus model the fullness of our faith, not just the rules and regulations! May we become the face and voice of Jesus to those who need Jesus to weather their challenging relationships and situations! May the Holy Spirit enlighten us about how we, individually and collectively, can specifically make living the Christian life just a little bit easier for adults and children in non-standard families?

Love always, Father William

OFFICE HOURS

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

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC
V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844

***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 Parish at 4pm Saturday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

Bishop's Appeal: Kickoff Weekend

This weekend we kick off the Bishop's Appeal along with all other parishes and missions throughout our Diocese. The 2024 Appeal theme is *Sharing God's Gifts* and this year our parish project is supporting Anawim House and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (locally & internationally).

You may have already received something in the mail, if so, please prayerfully consider making a gift. We encourage you to take a moment to watch the Bishop's video message at the following link www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal

Parish Goal: \$ 70,000

IT'S ALMOST HERE...CWL's *Fantastic* **FALL BAZAAR** being held on Saturday, October 5th from 9:30am to 2pm, at St. Patrick's Church, 2060 Haultain Street. Come and experience all the fun of a CWL Bazaar with this year's large variety of Kiosks, Quality Silent Auction, Tombola Raffle and so much more!
All proceeds will support CWL Charities.

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

Planet Positive Tips

Plan to prep. Meal prepping not only helps you stay within a desired eating plan; it can also save time, money and environmental resources by encouraging you to purchase only what you will use, and avoid or minimize food waste.



Updated Time: The Monthly Sunday Night Bridge

The Monthly Sunday Night Bridge begins on November 3rd from **1:30-5pm** in the Parish Hall. This will mark the 43rd year of this enjoyable social evening at Holy Cross. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information please contact Tony Southwell at (250)477-5738 or e-mail: tony_southwell@hotmail.com

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. The next session to choose from will be held on Saturday, November 16 from 10 - 12. Please email hcsfbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details and forward you the baptism registration form.

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. See: 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.

Prayer Reflection

The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their proper name. —
Confucius

Marriage . . . joins bodies and souls; it mingles two spirits and unites two bodies. . . . Both of you are made from the same Earth, from the same clay. —*Asterius, bishop of Amasea in Asia Minor c. 400*

Your Son went down from the heights of his divinity to the depths of our humanity. Can anyone’s heart remain closed and hardened after this?—*Saint Catherine of Siena*

Job Posting: Administrative Assistant

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Esquimalt is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. For more information about the position and how to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Applications must be received by October 14.

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.

Family Directories are in!

The family photo directories have been delivered and are available for pickup in the office during office hours. If you had your photo taken and have not yet picked up your directory, please come and see us.

Fertility Seminar with Dr. Cynthia Barco

You are invited to attend a seminar on ‘Facts About Fertility Explained’ by Dr. Cynthia Barco held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on October 12, 2024. Please see the bulletin board for information.

Taizé Prayer Monthly Events

St. Philip’s Anglican Church has renewed their monthly events of Taizé Prayer. Please join us at St Philip Oak Bay for a candlelit service of song, silence and contemplation on October 24th at 7pm. These events will continue on the 4th Thursdays of the month at 7pm.

Foster & Promote Vocations with the Serra Club @ SJTW

Join us on **Thursday 17 October @ 6-8 pm** for Holy Mass and Eucharistic Adoration followed by an engaging talk by Fr. Sean Flynn who will share his own vocation story. Be encouraged as he explains the importance of creating a culture of vocations in parishes, specifically how families can nurture a vocational calling to the priesthood for their sons. We will finish the evening with a small reception with food & fellowship. All are welcome!

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, October 5, 2024

4PM MASS: Eric Qualley (INT)

SUNDAY, October 6, 2024

9AM MASS: Jose Pacheco+

MONDAY, September 30, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, October 7, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with

Communion

Ron Tinney+

and Harriet Qualley (INT)

WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2024

9AM MEMORIAL MASS: Margaret

Jean Leitch+

THURSDAY, October 9, 2024

9AM MASS: Mary Finn

FRIDAY, October 4, 2024

9 AM MASS: Ann Hobbs+

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

Masks are optional at this time

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 3 - 3:45pm**

COLLECTIONS , Sept. 29, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$	5535.00
Loose	\$	375.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$	1,286.25
Needs of the Church in Canada	\$	390
Total	\$	7586.25

Thank you!

We want to extend a thank you to our Liturgical volunteers for their dedication, time and flexibility over the past few months without a parish priest. Your efforts are appreciated!



News from the Chancery

- 1) On September 30, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops released a statement on the occasion of the 2024 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, reaffirming its commitment to walking with Indigenous Peoples on their healing and reconciliation journey. To read the statement, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/special-announcements/on-the-occasion-of-the-2024-national-day-of-truth-and-reconciliation>
- 2) The Second Session of the Universal Phase of Synod 2021-2024 has begun. From October 2- 27, delegates from around the world will meet in Rome to pray, discuss, and discern how to be a missionary synodal Church. For more information on Synod 2021-2024, and on the Diocese of Victoria Permanent Pastoral Synod, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/synod>.
- 3) On October 9 at 7:00 pm, all are invited to join in "An Evening with Reverend Al". Rev. Al Tysick was the former Executive Director of the Open Door, Our Place Society, and the Dandelion Society, all serving the homeless in Victoria. Al will discuss his 30 years of street ministry, the challenges he faced, and his new book "Muddy Water". The event will take place at Broad View United Church in Victoria (3703 St Aidans St) and be livestreamed at <https://broadviewunited.org/special-events-3/>.

Music Bingo Fundraiser for Refugees

Time for another fun night of Music Bingo on **Wednesday, 9 October, 7:30pm at the Fernwood Inn** with your friends & supporters of the Refugee Sponsorship group at St. Dunstan's Church! Come alone, bring a friend or a crowd. This fundraiser goes towards sponsoring a Syrian refugee family of 5 looking to be reunited with siblings in Victoria. Each ticket is \$30, and only 60 tickets will be sold. For questions, contact JJ: : 778 677 3129
Find the link for tickets here: <https://tinyurl.com/FernwoodBingoOct2024>

Sacred Heart Church Community Garage Sale: Rent A Table

Please come to the Sacred Heart Church Community Garage Sale that will be held on November 16th in the church hall at 4040 Nelthorpe St. from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There will be new and used treasures as well as coffee, tea, baking and yummy BBQ food. There is lots of parking and the hall is wheelchair accessible. If you are interested in renting a table to sell your items, please contact Denise at 250-580-0066 or deniseowen@shaw.ca

Francophone? Est-ce que vous êtes au courant qu'il existe la Paroisse Française St. Jean-Baptiste a 307 Richmond, Victoria? Chaque Dimanche a 13 :30 hrs. nous célébrons en Français l'Eucharistie/la Messe avec notre cure le Père Rolf Hasenack, OP et avec des chants et accompagnement au piano et au guitar.

Pastor: Vacant

Executive Team:

Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar, Dave Begg

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: Vacant

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow
mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish:

4pm Saturday,

9am Sunday;

9am Thursday and Friday,

Liturgy of the Word with Communion:

9am Tuesday and Wednesday

Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish:

11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday;

12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday

Confessions: 3:00 - 3:45pm Saturdays, Holy Cross Parish; 11:30am Friday St. Patrick's Parish