



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - September 11th, 2022

Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lost sheep, coins, and children are valuable commodities each in their own way. But when Jesus tells parables about these missing items, he stresses two things more than their earthly value. One is the joy of regaining what is lost, on Earth and more so in heaven. The other is that being found is an apt metaphor for repentance. Both factors are related to the mercy of God and how sinners engage it. Because all of us are sinners, this is a good thing to understand. God loves the just but does not ignore the sinner, for whom there is always a place in his kingdom.

In our world today, the spirit of hatred, anger and revenge is alive and well. Proxy civil wars are stirred up and prolonged by outside powers, with masses of guns and weapons of mass destruction piled up and waiting to be used. Some have stockpiled chemical weapons while others have nuclear bombs enough to destroy the whole planet. How conflicted are the views of politicians who talk of spreading democracy but can rain down destruction from the safety of drones, high in the atmosphere.

On a more personal level, we all find it hard to forgive any wrongs inflicted on us by others. Perhaps the resented incident was deliberate, or it might have been unintentional. But it is sad if people must go through life harbouring grudges, making themselves miserable because they cannot let bygones be bygones. They need to consign to the past those hurts of the past, rather than still smoulder with unresolved resentment. These stories in the Gospel today help us move forward.

The woman who turns the house inside out to find the lost coin, the man who leaves the ninety-nine sheep to search for the one who has gone astray, the father who can hardly contain himself for joy at the return of his son, all these are images of what God is really like toward us. All are touching stories of being searched out by God and brought home into loving arms. It is the gentle concern of the shepherd, the woman, and the father to persevere in finding what was lost. We find the forgiveness of God, given out of love, without the sinner having to explain themselves. Forgiveness is the final form of love, and true forgiveness is always "God-like."

Can we accept that God offers mercy to everyone, no matter what they have done? If we are to be truly Christian, we must change our view of other people, and to see them as God does, with understanding and of mercy. The Prodigal Son story has no clear ending. We do not know if the elder brother eventually went in to join in the celebrations, or stayed outside, seething with self-righteousness. There is no ending, because it is not just a story, it is a challenge to each of us. How would *you* end the story? Would you go in or stay outside? Joyce Meyer said it best, mercy is the stuff you give to people that do not deserve it.

Blessings all
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 on Sunday at 11am*. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

A Special Mass this Week!

Wednesday, September 14 is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross and this is the Feast day of Holy Cross. We will have a special mass at 7pm on September 14 at Holy Cross to remember all those parishioners at both parishes we lost during this Covid time. Please bring pictures of those who have died and we will remember and sanctify and after we will have refreshments.

Thank you to Fr. William and those in our Parish Community who have supported us through the illness and death of our husband and father Richard. Rosemary and John Faulkner

Social and Eco-Justice Committee

Join Fr. William and the Holy Cross and St. Patrick's delegations at the GVAT Homes for All Assembly on Sunday Oct. 2 (7 - 8:30 pm). See the last page of the bulletin for more detail. Look for the signup/carpooling sheet in the church

Stained Glass Window Tour

Have you ever wondered about the windows at the cathedral? If you are interested in a 45 min tour on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday contact Trish hugh.trish.westwood@gmail.com or by phone at 250-477-6032.



Ministry Sign-up

Sign-up sheets will be posted throughout the Church this weekend and next for you to sign up for the Ministry of interest to you. Have a look!

Pastoral Care Outreach Training

This series will be offered online again this fall. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 24th until November 26th. Call the Parish Office to register.

CWL FALL FAIR - CALL FOR DONATIONS

The Good Used Clothing Sale + Fall Bazaar is coming to St. Patrick's Parish on September 30 - October 1st from 9:30am-2:00pm. Donations are now being collected! To see types of donations needed: [donations needed](#)

Library Corner

September 17th and 21st are respectively the feast days of St Robert Bellarmine and St Matthew. Cardinal Bellarmine is notable for his observations on Galileo's heliocentric theory with the distinction between theory and proof in science. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Bellarmino

Many of the most beautiful, lyrical, and inspiring passages in the gospels are found in St Matthew, the Evangelist, who left his tax collecting chores when Jesus simply said "Follow me". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_the_Apostle

"Blessed are the poor in spirit..." Ch 5 Verses 1-12 <https://biblehub.com/kjv/matthew/5.htm>

"Seek and you shall find" Ch 7: Verse 7 <https://biblehub.com/nkjv/matthew/7.htm>

"When was it that we saw you hungry, Lord?" Ch 25: verses 31-46

<https://www.bible.com/bible/1/MAT.25.37.KJV>

"Come to me all you that labour and are heavy burdened" Ch 11: Verse 28

<https://biblehub.com/nkjv/matthew/7.htm>

"Consider the lilies of the field..." Ch 6: Verses 24-34 <https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/6.htm>

Prayer Reflection

Mercy is the stuff you give to people that don't deserve it.

—Joyce Meyer

Forgiveness always comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness.

—Timothy Keller, The Prodigal God

When we pray, we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us.

—Saint Jerome

No mother could snatch her child from a burning building more swiftly than God is constrained to succor a penitent soul.

—Blessed Henry of Suso

NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

The regular livestream schedule will now be 7 pm on weeknights and 9 am on Sundays, except Wednesday, Sept 14: livestream cancelled.

Visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/dailymasslivestreamed> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne/about> for updates

A message from our University Chaplain.

Save the date! The Catholic Students' Association invites UVic and Camosun students for a Welcome Back BBQ at Holy Cross on September 24. Join us for mass at 4pm followed by a wonderful BBQ prepared by our dedicated parishioners. This opportunity will be a perfect social to meet friends and make new connections. Find out what CSA has to offer this year. Bring yourself and a friend. Games and a raffle will be part of the evening's event. Everyone is welcome. See you there!

Mass Times

Please note the new weekend Mass Times as follows:

Holy Cross: Saturdays at 4pm and Sundays at 9am

St. Patrick's: Sunday at 11am and 4pm

Weekdays: Tuesdays and Thursdays at Holy Cross 9am

Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Patrick's 12:10pm



COLLECTION for

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,910.00
Loose	\$ 380.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,407.50
TOTAL	\$ 4,697.50



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.

WITH ARMS WIDE OPEN - RETREAT

With Arms Open Wide: Welcoming God's People

October 21 - Oct 22

St. Edward's the Confessor, Duncan.

KEYNOTE: Mona Goodman

MASS with Bishop Gary Gordon

Keynote Speaker, Mona Goodman, will ground us in hospitality in the liturgical ministries in which we serve. We will celebrate beautiful liturgy and engage in workshops specific to various liturgical ministries.

Registration details to follow.



GVAT Homes for All Community Assembly

October 2 (Sunday), 7 – 8:30 pm (doors open at 6:30)

Christ Church Cathedral (930 Burdett Avenue)

On October 2, all 26 member organizations of Greater Victoria Acting Together ([GVAT](#)) will come together in person for the first time and demonstrate our collective power to the broader community. **Holy Cross and St. Patrick's are excited to be part of this big action event, with Fr. William leading our delegations!**

What is this Assembly about?

The deepening housing crisis touches so many people in our communities, from those experiencing homelessness to young families, single parents, workers, students, and seniors. Everyone deserves a home where they can live in security and within their means. This is a basic human right! Municipal elections are taking place on October 15. At the Assembly, GVAT will be asking mayoral candidates in the region to commit to bold policies that will preserve and create new non-profit and affordable housing for all our neighbours.

What will happen during the Assembly?

We will hear stories from people impacted by the housing crisis, then do a roll call of all member organizations – to show our strength and solidarity. Mayoral candidates present will be asked to pledge support for our asks.

What are we asking of our parishioners?

Show up at Christ Church Cathedral on October 2! Bring your family and friends. The higher the number of participants, the better we will convince the politicians that there is strong support for local governments to champion bold policies to quickly develop non-profit and affordable housing.

Why should you be there?

Even if you are securely and adequately housed yourself, think of all the people who aren't. Can your children and grandchildren afford to live near you? Do you have friends residing in older rental buildings who live in fear of renovation or demolition? Can the people whose services you rely on (eg. healthcare providers) find housing in core Victoria? Are you a business owner who cannot find workers, because there is no affordable housing for them close by?

Covid safety:

All participants will be required to wear masks for the 1 ½-hour duration of the event. No refreshments will be served.

Please put October 2 on your calendar. The event will also be livestreamed via GVAT facebook.

Any questions on the Assembly can be addressed to Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca). Click [here](#) to see what the GVAT Affordable Housing Action Research Team has done thus far.

Look for sign-up/carpooling sheets in the church foyer.