



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

**SUNDAY - September 10, 2023**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Some years ago, a theologian noted that if Jesus were alive today, his enemies wouldn't bother to crucify him. They'd simply make fun of him in the press. There's a deep truth to that. The new execution style is character assassination. Once we've destroyed a person's good name, we have effectively eliminated them.

A long time ago, Jesus argued, with good rabbinic tradition behind him, to settle disputes as privately and reasonably as possible. "Talk to your brother...(sister)," he advised. What a concept. Talk doesn't mean rant or disparage or shame or dominate. It means sharing and listening. But as Jesus knew well, you can't begin to settle serious conflicts by jumping into a dialogue without special training. Matthew 18 is an extended prep course in how Christians should handle their differences. A summary situates today's passage: Learn humility, love the lost, talk to your brother...(sister), and forgive without limits. So, how do we deal with members of the community who have been engaged in wrong, even sinful behavior? It suggests a procedure to be followed. The procedure that is suggested in today's Gospel is very demanding. For is it not true that when we come face to face with behavior that is unacceptable or that we may even call sinful, our first inclination is not to have anything to do with such persons? Or, if we are a bit more broadminded, we may look the other way, and pride ourselves on being tolerant. We prefer to stay out of it. After all, it is their problem. Let them stew in their own juice.

Today's Gospel is not satisfied with either one of these two procedures. It suggests a more creative approach, which is more difficult as well. It suggests we take responsibility for the brothers and sisters among us who fail. The way we take responsibility for them is not by writing them off or by remaining at a safe distance, but by admonishing and rebuking them. But in such a way that it is done discreetly, without intending to hurt, to break or humiliate them, without them having to lose face. To the age-old question of Cain: Am I my brother's or sister's keeper? The Gospel says without hesitation: "Yes you are." To admonish others and to love them, to rebuke others and to respect their freedom: it can only be done by people who are schooled and matured in real Christian charity. The school of Christian charity is one that is life long.

I know that I have become a better human being because someone provided a hand to hold onto when I was afraid. I bet there is someone in your own life you helped grow because you patiently loved them. Aren't you glad you never gave up on them? Human beings are so fragile, did you ever stop to think that our simplest acts either display or betray the gospel mission to "love your neighbor as yourself"? Isaac, Cistercian abbot of l'Etoile writes...everything must be done or not done, changed or not changed on account of charity. Charity is the principle by which and the end toward which everything must be guided. There can be no sin in what is accomplished, in all truth, for it, and according to its spirit. September 11th is the anniversary of the largest terrorist attack in American history, is a day to call to mind those who rushed in to help, at great cost. The first certified fatality of the attacks was Father Mychal Judge, Franciscan friar, and New York City Fire Department chaplain, who rushed to the World Trade Center to help. During his life, he was known for ministering to the marginalized and for the words on a prayer card he often distributed: "Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say. And keep me out of your way." Honor his legacy and make his humble prayer ours today.

Charity in all things

Father William

## 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

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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 Holy Cross Parish at 4pm Saturday. 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 sessions for Baptismal Preparation are: Saturday, September 9th and Saturday, October 21st (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email [hcsbp baptismal-prep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsbp baptismal-prep@rcdvictoria.org) with your name, contact information and choice of dates. The coordinator will email you a registration form.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Who Is Jesus Christ? What are Sacraments? Whether you're just curious about Catholicism or eager to enter the Faith, RCIA may be the journey you're called to this Fall. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which non-Catholics enter the Catholic Faith. Join us to explore what the Holy Spirit has instore for you! Please contact your pastor to have a dialogue and then register with Carmelle & Chris Whiteley to sign up for the initial evening on September 21st. 250-886-2987 or [carmelle.whiteley@gmail.com](mailto:carmelle.whiteley@gmail.com)

### 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)

### NEW USHERS WELCOME

If you like saying “Hello” to people and welcoming them to Mass - and looking for a new way to serve our community, we would love to have you join our Usher Team at Holy Cross. Currently, we have a complement of three ushers per Mass. We are looking to increase this to four per Mass, beginning with our new schedule - which runs from **October 1/2023 to June 30/2024**. Your commitment would be only one Saturday or Sunday a month. Please give me a call or send an email if interested, to: Joanie Bidlake at [Officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:Officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org) or Holy Cross - Office Phone: 250-477-5321. I look forward to hearing from you by September 15, 2023. Training provided. Thank you!

### Pastoral Care Outreach Training series:

Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 23 and running until November 25, 2023 (with no session on October 7 for Thanksgiving). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection and access to Zoom. Whether you are a member of your parish Pastoral Care Team, an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, CWL or St. Vincent de Paul, clergy or religious, caring for a family member, or someone attending as a personal undertaking, this training program is important. It will show why those who visit the sick are unique and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Bishop Gary Gordon feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.” Please register through your local parish by September 12. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca)

### Holy Cross/St. Pat's Social and Eco-Justice Committe

The Holy Cross/St. Pat's Social and Eco-Justice Committee will meet on Wed. Sep. 13 at 7 pm in the Boardroom of St. Patrick's Parish, 2nd floor of the parish centre. All are welcome. Three short videos (5 min.) on Laudato Si can be viewed online. Watch one or all three. Pope Francis invites us to celebrate the Season of Creation.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_lqFTYLc\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4) - Pope Francis and Laudato Si

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3Lz7dmn1eM&t=5s> - Animated from CAFOD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIVuISZGdug> - Animated from Development and Peace

### Prayer Reflection

Love is not blind; that is the last thing that love is. Love is bound; and the more it is bound, the less it is blind.

—G.K. Chesterton

And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.

—Roald Dahl

Because we are made in God's image, in fleeing from a relationship with a loving God, we are also running from being our most authentic selves.

—Kathleen Norris

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.

—Albert Schweitzer

### **OUR LITURGICAL LIFE**

#### **SATURDAY, September 9th**

4PM Mass: Elvira & Piero & Magro+  
Brendan Henry+

#### **SUNDAY, September 10th**

9AM Mass: Carmel Loader+

#### **MONDAY, September 11th**

NO MASS

#### **TUESDAY, September 12th**

9AM Mass: Howard Tennant+

#### **WEDNESDAY, September 13th**

NO MASS

#### **THURSDAY, September 14th**

**Exaltation of the Cross**

7PM Mass: Miriam Li+

#### **FRIDAY, September 15th**

NO MASS

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

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

**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.**

### **Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 10, 2023**

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” The community that gathers needs leadership. If you are considering becoming a priest, deacon, sister or brother, 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)

### **Exaltation of the Cross Feast Day**

This Thursday, September 14th, we will celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Please note the **time change for the Mass** on this day. Mass will be held at **7PM**. There will be NO 9AM Mass.



### **Congratulations!!**

**Congratulations go out to Mauricio Pampin and Jonelle Joseph to be married at Holy Cross on Saturday, September 9.**



### **Tenant Start-up Kit for Our Place**

Once again, the Social Eco Justice Committee is looking for donations to assist a person in need to be able to move to safe housing through Our Place Society. A sign-up list of needed items will be placed in the church foyer. This time we do not need to supply a (new) mattress, however a clean microwave oven in good working order is an ask. We appreciate the generosity of parishioners with their donations again this year.



### **COLLECTIONS for September 3, 2023**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,416.00
Loose	\$ 275.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,370.00
Needs of the Church	\$ 10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,071.00</b>

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to all those who led the Liturgy of the Word with Communion over the summer while Father William was away. Trish Westwood, Marcia Thompson, Tanya Taft, Barb McKrow, Trudy Holden and Russell Delaney - you all did an awesome job! Thank you!

### **Mark your calendar!**

There is an upcoming concert at Holy Cross on Sunday, September 24th at 2pm. Locarno is a Latin/ Mexican group that will bring a lively and joyous sound to our listening ears! And, you WILL want to dance!!

## **News from the Chancery**

- 1) Season of Creation 2023 has begun. Every year from September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world are invited to join in a celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. To learn more about the Season of Creation, and to read Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/season-of-creation-2023-let-justice-and-peace-flow>.
- 2) People who are interested in participating in online Pastoral Care Outreach Training sessions are asked to register with their parish by Monday, September 11. The Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee offers this program for those who wish to learn more about visiting the lonely, sick, injured, elderly, and dying. Participants will learn why those who visit the sick are unique and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Sessions are held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 23 and running until November 25, 2023 (with no session on October 7 for Thanksgiving).
- 3) An online series exploring Pope Francis' catechesis on old age will begin on Monday, September 11th. Each week, Amanda Achtman and Nicole Scheidl from Canadian Physicians for Life will give a 10 to 15-minute introduction and commentary on the address of that week. The remainder of the meeting will be an opportunity to delve into discussion together on the themes of the Pope's short text. Each of the 18 sessions will run from 5-6 pm PT, and is designed to be a standalone discussion, so participants can attend as many or as few as they wish. For more information and to register, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/232203366113241>
- 4) Trinity Catholic Parish in Nanaimo invites everyone in the Diocese to join in their 15 Day Sit-Spot Earth/Spirit Connection Challenge from September 15-19. This is a unique opportunity to experience a meaningful connection to both the natural world and to God through daily prompts of guidance in nature combined with the contemplation of Pope Francis' Laudato Si' letter. To participate, you'll need to find a spot you can visit each day from which you can see some form of nature. To learn more and to register, email [sdafoe@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:sdafoe@rcdvictoria.org) with the subject heading '15 Day Sit-Spot'.

### **Knights of Columbus - Free 1 Year On-Line Membership**

You can enjoy the benefits of being a Knights of Columbus member including Accidental Death Benefit and the famous Columbia Magazine. Go to: [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) Promo Code: BLESSEDMCGIVNEY After joining, please check your INBOX for confirmation.



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**

### **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)

### **Show Us Your Face, Lord: Catholic Retreat with Fr. Mark Cherry**

In September, Fr. Mark Cherry, a retreat and mission speaker from Halifax, will lead a retreat in Victoria with the theme "Show Us Your Face, Lord" to bring us closer to Him. The retreat will take place **September 29 – 30 (Friday evening and Saturday)** at St. Joseph the Worker Parish (753 Burnside Road W) with three talks, adoration and benediction, worship, a healing service and Mass. Confession will also be available. Space is limited. Early bird registration is \$35 before Aug 31<sup>st</sup> and \$45 as of Sep 1<sup>st</sup>. Lunch is not included – bring a bag lunch. To register, please visit our website at [www.tinyurl.com/showusyourface2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/showusyourface2023). For more information, email [catholicretreat7@gmail.com](mailto:catholicretreat7@gmail.com) or phone 250-383-7746.

#### **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

**Parish Council Chair:** Catherine Davis

**Sacramental Preparation:** Michele Bristow

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

**Baptismal Preparation:** Beverly Pulyk

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

#### **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.