

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY September 13, 2020 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I wish there were a simple solution to the problem of forgiveness. But even Peter, who had Jesus in front of him in person daily, did not seem to know what Jesus would do the *eighth* time a brother might sin against him. Peter experiences the limits of human patience and forbearance in his own relationships. He wants to know how long a genuinely good person ought to put up with the abuse of his or her charity. But Jesus refuses to consider forgiveness in terms of what is reasonable or even humanly possible.

When Jesus tells his parable about the servant forgiven a great debt, there is no discussion at all of how long to forgive someone who offends, or even how to do it, period. The emphasis in the story is not on the mechanics of forgiveness but only on the motivation. We forgive our fellow human beings, umpteen times seven times, not because they deserve it but because we ourselves have been forgiven a king's ransom.

As far as Jesus is concerned, this is the whole of forgiveness in a nutshell: Our obligation matches the largess we have received, which is incalculable. Never mind ruminating on who did what to whom and how often. Yes, there may be pain and anger and certainly there can be just cause for grievance. Jesus does not argue those points. But gnawing on those components will not free us to do the one thing we are expected to do as servants relieved of all our debts, and that is to forgive our debtors, free and clear.

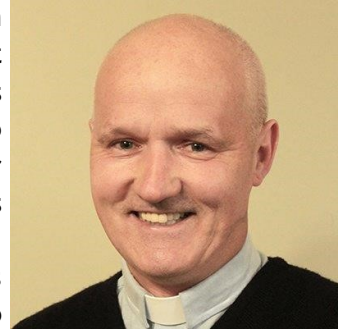
The person who practices habits of forgiveness, however, remembers God's surpassing kindnesses above all, as the psalmist suggests. This is the same God who prefers not to recall our guilt but pardons and releases it. If we dedicated the same amount of time normally spent nursing our injuries on giving thanks for God's mercy and goodness to us, the forgiveness habit might overtake us quite naturally. But God's forgiveness, which comes first, is hardly reasonable, and it is by God's standard alone that we are to measure our own obligation to forgive.

On another note, next week we would normally celebrate Holy Cross feast day on the Exaltation of the Cross. I think we need to celebrate it in this time of suffering and living with the challenges of a pandemic. I suggest we place our hearts and hands at the foot of the cross. Whether it be fear, anxiety, loneliness or youth, the pain of illness or even the stress and anxiety of living in these days of Covid we have a place to put our crosses.

Father Alfredo shared the following with me this past week... and I find myself pondering deeply its message. "IN FRONT OF EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE (COVID) I AM FORCED TO DECIDE IF I REMAIN AT THE LEVEL OF COMPLAINING OR IF I WILL LOOK AT THE CHALLENGE AS A POSSIBILITY THROUGH WHICH THE MYSTERY CALLS ME. THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT THEY TAKE THE DARKNESS AWAY, OUR TRUE PROBLEM IS TO LEAVE OUR IMMATURITY BEHIND"

May we find Jesus amid Covid,

Father William



OFFICE HOURS

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

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS: If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from your pastor or Eucharistic Minister, please call your parish office or VGH/RJ hospital emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.

OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick's and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>
Like and follow the page and please do send photos of the church for posting!

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **St. Patrick's Parish on Sunday, September 13th at 11am on the YouTube page.**

Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

MOUNT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL BOTTLE DRIVE

Mount St. Mary Hospital is holding a no contact bottle drive to raise funds to purchase a blanket warmer. Everyone is invited to bring their refundable beverage containers for a no contact, drive and drop, outdoor bottle drive on Saturday, September 19th from 9am – 3pm in the front drive through at Mount St. Mary Hospital (861 Fairfield Road.) For more info or if you have returnables and can't attend the event, contact Jane at jbowers@mountstmary.ca or 250-480-3138. Thank you for supporting our community's frail, vulnerable, and elderly.

**PASTORAL CARE WEBINAR**

You are all welcome to join the Pastoral Care Webinar on “Hope and Healing” sponsored by the Gardens of Gethsemani (Archdiocese of Vancouver) and “virtually” presented by Fr. William Hann on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 7 pm. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register visit the website: https://rcav.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c_w-USKZRqFCY39Xxtoww or visit our parish website: www.holycrossvictoria.org

AT THE (VIRTUAL) LIBRARY

Many of the most beautiful, poetic 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”. His feast day is Sept 21. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_the_Apostle

- ◆ “Blessed are the pure 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/kjv/matthew/11.htm>
- ◆ “Consider the lilies of the field...” Ch 6: Verses 24-34 <https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/6.htm>

CONDOLENCES

It has been a time for great loss in our parish community recently, and we ask you all to keep in heart and prayer the families of Assunta Colangeli, Franco Flora, Albert Bushell and John Gile, who have all passed away in recent weeks and whose funerals will be held here at Holy Cross this month. We remember these fellow parishioners as we pray for them and their families during this difficult time.

“He who follows me does not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

PRAYER REFLECTION

Late have I loved you, O Beauty, ever ancient, ever new . . .
—Saint Augustine
He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.
—George Herbert
If, then, you are looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ, because he himself is the way.
—Thomas Aquinas

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM
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DIOCESAN BLOG: The diocesan Blog post for this week entitled “Back to School”, may be accessed via the link: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/backtoschool>

We continue to pray for our students, administrators and staff who head back to school this week.

DIOCESAN MISSION: Join Bishop Gary Gordon as he leads a Mission on “A Path to Hope in Jesus”, reflections on the Sorrowful Mysteries, which will serve as a reminder that “we already enter into glory when we have the cross in our lives”. The Mission will begin after the live-stream Mass (7 pm) on Monday, Sept. 14th, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and conclude on Friday, Sept. 18th.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Island Catholic Schools is accepting applications for the following positions:

- After School Care Worker at St. Joseph’s School (Monday–Friday; 3:00-6:00pm)
- Full-time, part-time and on-call Educational Assistants for schools in Victoria.

Application forms and details are posted at:
<http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>

POSSIBLE WEEKDAY EVENING MASS

Now that summer is over, and many are back to work/school, Fr. William is considering celebrating a weekday evening Mass to accommodate those that can’t make the morning Mass. The Mass would be *Wednesday evenings at 7pm at Holy Cross only*. If you would be interested in attending please email Joanie at officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org so we can get a sense of numbers.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, September 12th

2:30-3:15pm Reconciliation
4:00pm Mass: **Salvatore Ciccone +**

SUNDAY, September 13th

9:00am Mass: **Nino Antoniazzi +**

MONDAY, September 14th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, September 15th

9:00 am Mass: **Carmel Dooley +**

WEDNESDAY, September 16th

9:00am Mass: **John Calder +**

THURSDAY, September 17th

9:00am Mass: **No Intention**

FRIDAY, September 18th

9:00 am Mass: **Mercy & Nicholas +**

At Holy Cross Parish you must now register for which day of the week you would like to attend Mass. You can register by emailing Joanie Bidlake at:

officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Our Mass schedule remains the same for now:

Tuesday – Friday: 9am Mass

Saturday: 4pm Mass (full)

Sunday: 9am Mass (full)

**please note that you may select a Mass time from St. Patrick’s Parish Mass schedule. To do this please call Deborah Mackay at St. Pat’s at: 250-592-7391.*



holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

COLLECTION for September 6, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 1,785.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,452.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,237.00