

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - September 17, 2023
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forgiveness may be the most challenging work of Christians, but it comes with the greatest reward: the peace of Christ. Those who have suffered the most are often our greatest teachers in the practice of forgiveness. Consider forgiveness as the currency of eternity. It's absolutely free, so spend as much as you'd like. It's like having your own money printing press in the cellar. Go on: Forgive seventy-times-seven times and it won't cost you a penny! The great thing about forgiveness is that it's the gift that keeps on giving. Forgive people extravagantly, unilaterally, and relentlessly, and what does that get you? The same kind of abundant pardon on the far side of life. The Lord's Prayer expresses the bargain: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." The more we hit the ATM of forgiveness to spend on the people around us, the more is added to our account. It's a bewilderingly sweet deal.

Given the remarkable benefits of the practice of forgiveness, you'd think Christians would be all over it like ants at a picnic. We should be bumping into each other in our haste to demonstrate compassion for our fellow sinners, as anxious to say *I'm sorry* as to declare *I forgive you*. We should seek to be the first to love. If we made each decision with that intent, seeking and offering forgiveness would be as natural as breathing. Surprisingly, however, the thought of forgiveness often stifles our breath. We've developed very bad habits conforming us to the world rather than to Christ. We hug wrath and anger tight, though they're hateful and can only make us sick, in body and soul.

Unforgiveness is the number-one reported ailment in the offices of counselors both secular and pastoral. It leads to anger, depression, uncontrollable sadness, judgmentalism, and a host of other crippling diseases. We don't know how to let go of injuries and injustices. We heap so many preconditions on forgiveness that it becomes impossible to exercise. That free and abundant currency of eternity? We lock it all up in a Swiss bank account and throw away the key. Withholding forgiveness means staunching the supply available to ourselves. How could we not forgive others, when God has forgiven us so much? The Lord challenges us not to make serious damaging mistakes, but he also tells us that our mistakes are not forever—they are not even for a lifetime—and that time and grace wash clean, that nothing is irrevocable. Another way of putting it, scripture says this week, is that if we do not show others forgiveness, it cannot be shown us. How does the reciprocity of forgiveness—forgive as you are forgiven, and as you want to be forgiven—show itself in your life and the lives of those around you? A wise man wrote... *He or she who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which they must pass.*

Next week is commissioning Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness. Catechists literally "echo" the example of Jesus. Deliver your echo boldly!

Abundant blessings

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

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.rcdvictoria.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 hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. 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

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

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.



Library Corner

September 21st commemorates the feast day of Saint Matthew

Many of the most beautiful, poetic and inspiring passages in the gospels are found in St Matthew, 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

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>

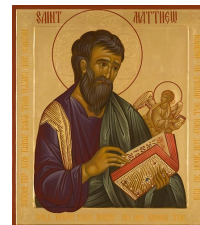
-“When was it that we saw you hungry, Lord?” Ch 25: verses 31-46

<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/nkjv/matthew/7.htm>

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



Prayer Reflection

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

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

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 16th

4PM Mass: Mama Senn+

SUNDAY, September 17th

9AM Mass: Joan Pickles

MONDAY, September 18th

NO MASS

TUESDAY, September 19th

9AM Mass: Michael O'Neill

WEDNESDAY, September 20th

NO MASS

THURSDAY, September 21st

9AM Mass: Vincent Dugo

FRIDAY, September 22nd

NO MASS

The Chapel 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-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 17, 2023

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Consider service as a priest, deacon, sister or brother. If God is calling you contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org

Fr. Harrison Ayre: hayre@rcdvictoria.org

Tenant Start-up Kit for Our Place

The Social and Eco Justice Committee appreciates donations that have come in to-date for our tenant start-up kit. Items are still needed in all categories. In the kitchen, some examples are: pots, tea kettle, 4 plates/bowls/cutlery, dish rack & tray, etc. Please note down your information on the sign-up list in the foyer so that there are not duplicates of some items, while others are needed. Thank You!



You are invited to attend a **Filipino Mass** on Sunday, September 24th at 7pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, a first Filipino Saint. The Eucharistic celebration will be held in Filipino and celebrated by Fr. Dino Villadiego.

LOCARNO

On Sunday, September 24th, from 2 - 4pm, we have the opportunity to hear some amazing music!

As part of our 40th Anniversary Celebration, 'Locarno' will be coming! To hear a sample of their music visit this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiifntG94yQ>

Come celebrate with us! The concert will be held in the Church.



COLLECTIONS September 10, 2023

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes \$ 3,645.00

Loose \$ 445.00

Pre-Authorized Debit \$ 1,370.00

TOTAL \$ 5,460.00



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

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the celebration of our Feast Day, the Exaltation of the Cross, such a special one. Special thanks go out to Pat Davis and Mary-Anne Tinney for providing the hospitality following Mass.

News from the Chancery

- 1) As Season of Creation 2023 continues, Mouvement Laudato Si' Movement – Canada (https://www.faithcommongood.org/mouvement_laudato_si_movement_canada) invites everyone to join in the first online MLSM Canada National Gathering on Wednesday, September 27th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm PT. For more information and to register, please visit https://www.faithcommongood.org/mlsm_canada_national_gathering/.
- 2) Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is collecting funds to support rescue and relief efforts in Morocco after the devastating magnitude 6.8 earthquake which struck the country on September 8. To donate online, please visit <https://www2.dev.org/en/civCRM/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3&gl=24092> and select “Emergency – Earthquake Morocco” where it asks what you are giving towards.
- 3) 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 or 250-479-1331 ext 227.

Greetings from the Beloved Catholic Women's Ministries Team! We are excited to announce our 5th annual Women's Retreat Nov 17- 19 2023 at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island near Campbell River.

All women 19+ are invited. Our theme this year is “Flourish”.

Our keynote speaker is the very popular Fr Chrysostom Mijinke OP who will also be our chaplain. If you have been to any of our retreats before, you'll know why we are so excited. If you haven't, you're in for a treat! Come for rest, prayer, adoration, outdoor activities, fabulous meals, and fellowship . Registration is now open! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beloved-catholic-womens-retreat-registration-718046916657> Please email us with any questions at vicatholicwomensretreat@gmail.com



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

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

University Chaplain: Dan Taft

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow

mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk

hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

Opus Dei

An evening recollection for women will be held at **Our Lady of Fatima** Parish, 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Saanich, on **Monday, September 18th** from **7pm to 9pm**. It will be preceded by Mass at 6pm and confession at 6:30pm.

An evening recollection for men will be offered on **Tuesday, September 19th** at **Sacred Heart** Parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Saanich from **6pm to 8pm**. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm.

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

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.