



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - September 1, 2024

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Happy September! This month I am away on holidays but will continue to speak to you via these bulletin reflections. Today is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Jesus reminds us that when things go wrong, we can most often find responsibility lying at our own doorsteps. Or, as cartoon character Pogo said on a poster for the first Earth Day, with a nod to our responsibility for global warming, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." It is the *mea culpa* of the true confession, the recognition that we are accountable for our actions.

The personal habits, or traditions that we have developed can serve us well; yet there can come a time when they begin to hold us back. As well as personal habits or traditions, we also have communal traditions, ways in which we as a society or as a church have done things. Those communal traditions can serve us well, but there can come a time when they too can restrict us. In the gospel Jesus comes into conflict with the Pharisees who had a great regard for what is referred to in that gospel as 'the tradition of the elders.' These were traditions that had been passed down orally for hundreds of years and that applied the Jewish Law to all the details of daily living. These traditions were not written in the Scriptures, but they had come to acquire an authority that was equal to that of the Scriptures. During his ministry, Jesus challenged the prominence that the Pharisees and other religious leaders gave to these religious traditions. In the gospel Jesus contrasts these human traditions to the commandment of God and he declares that in their zeal to uphold these human traditions, the religious leaders have ended up undermining the commandment of God. Jesus is implying that what mattered so much to the Pharisees did not matter to God. God had other priorities. Long standing traditions about ritual washings of hands and of cups and pots do not matter to God; what does matter to God, according to Jesus, is what is in our heart and what comes from out of our heart.

Those who are into gardening know when to prune their bushes and shrubs. Otherwise, they can get too big, and the flower or fruit loses its quality. Jesus was in many ways a pruner. He pruned the traditions that had come to acquire an importance they did not deserve. In his pruning he tried to highlight what was most important in God's eyes. Jesus did not jettison the Jewish tradition completely, to start afresh. In today's gospel he critiques the traditions of the Pharisees by drawing upon the tradition of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus was able to identify, in the Jewish tradition, what really mattered to God and what did not. Jesus wanted what was best in that tradition to flourish. He highlighted those elements of the Jewish tradition that revealed God's desire for our lives, most fully. Jesus was aware that religious tradition can hide God as well as reveal God. An important dimension of his work consisted in pruning those elements of the tradition that were hiding God.

Our religious traditions are always in need of pruning, be they our own personal traditions or the traditions of the church. What has become important to us, over time, may not be as important to God. The Lord continues to speak to us through his word, reminding us of what is important to God and what, therefore, should be important to us. .We must keep going back to the source of our Christian tradition, which is the word of God in the (cont'd over)

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
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.ca/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.bishopreporting.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>

New Testament and the gospels to learn over and over again what Jesus says is important to God and to allow our tradition to be purified and pruned. Today's reading from the letter of James calls on us to 'accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you.' The word of the Lord is not just outside of ourselves in a book; it has been planted in us, through baptism. In attending to the Lord's word, we are attending to what is deepest within ourselves. James reminds us that accepting and submitting to the Lord's word means not just listening to it but doing it, doing what the word tells us. If we submit to the Lord's word in that full sense, then what is important to God will become important to us. The letter of James is very clear about what is important to God. In the words of our second reading, 'pure unspoiled religion in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help orphans and widows when they need it and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world'. I have no doubt that Jesus would have been very happy with that way of expressing what is important to God. Dear friends, the first priority in God's eyes is how we relate to one another, in particular how we relate to the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Jesus did not hesitate to heal the sick on the Sabbath even though the tradition of the elders held that this constituted work and so was unlawful. The words and deeds of Jesus are always the best guide to what is of real value in our own religious tradition and what it is that may need to be put aside.

September blessings to all beginning a new school year!

Father William

Become a Volunteer Catechist 2024-2025

Grow in and share your faith with children and youth of St Patrick's and Holy Cross parishes. Effective catechists are patient, responsible, confident and creative. You bring a generosity of spirit, respect for diversity and a habit of hospitality and inclusion. We provide you with training in Catholic teaching, Scripture and Tradition to teach students and their families. Complete a [Ministry Volunteer Application Form](#) and submit it to the parish office. For more information contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org. For volunteer screening procedures go to: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

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 sessions to choose from will be held on Saturday, September 28 from 10 - 12.

Please email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism and forward you the baptism registration form.

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

St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen Needs Soup Makers!

The Soup Kitchen, located in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral, has been in operation for 41 years. Early each morning, Monday to Friday, we make a nutritious, protein-rich soup. Every weekday, volunteers serve 140-180 meals to those in need in our community, seniors, low-income workers and those unhoused in our city.

Prayer Reflection

We may truly be said to worship God-though we lack perfection; but we cannot be said to worship Him if we lack sincerity.

—Stephen Charnock

Deep in the human heart

The fire of justice burns;

A vision of a world renewed

Through radical concern. — William L. Wallace

The highest form of wisdom is kindness. —The Talmud

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Or perhaps were you baptized Catholic as a child, but have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Parishes in the city of Victoria are collaborating to offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, beginning in the fall. For more information or to register for the 2024–25 year, please contact the parish office.

We offer sincere condolences to the family of Vince Cain. Vince passed away Tuesday, August 20. His funeral Mass will be at Holy Cross next Saturday, September 7 at 10:00am.

5th Annual Mass for Our Lady of Pentafrancia

The Pentafrancia Festival is one of the Philippines most vibrant celebrations in honor of Our Lady of Pentafrancia. The Bicolanos of Vancouver Island invite you to join us in this Eucharistic Celebration of faith, fellowship and unity. This gathering of devotion will take place at St. Patrick's Church, 2060 Haultain St. Saturday, September 14, 11:30am, Farther Vince Borre will be the celebrant.

Prayer in the Style of Taize

Taize Prayer resumes this fall at St. Michael All Angels Anglican Church, 4733 West Saanich Rd. Please join us 6:00pm, the 3rd Friday of the month: September 20, October 18, November 15. For further information contact, Margaret O'Donnell 250 361 9228 margoddonnell@shaw.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.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, August 31 2024

4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, September 1, 2024

9AM MASS: Lou Slavko Horvat+

MONDAY, September 2, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, September 3, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Joe Hilario+

WEDNESDAY, September 4, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion

THURSDAY, September 5, 2024

9AM MASS: Gerry Cannon+

FRIDAY, September 6, 2024

9AM MASS: Boudins Family Int.

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

Masks are optional at this time

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 3:00- 3:45 on Saturdays

COLLECTIONS , August 18, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 1,540.00
Loose	\$ 447.00
Canada Helps	\$ 361.88
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,293.75
	\$ 3,642.63

A very special thank you to those who have been offering The Liturgy of the Word with Communion. We are grateful to those from both Holy Cross and St. Pat's who have offered this opportunity to us over the summer. In September Holy Cross will continue. Your willingness to serve enriches our faith life as we pray together and share Eucharistic. May God bless all of you abundantly.

. 2024/25 Sacramental Preparation Programs for Children/Teenagers of St Patrick's and Holy Cross

Journey of Faith for Teenagers: Learn about the Catholic Faith, what it means to follow Jesus, and how to receive the graces needed to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. This program is designed for teenagers to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in right relationship with God. Students may prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL STUDENTS AGED 13+ YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a sponsor.

Journey of Faith for Children: Does your child want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? This program is designed for children to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in relationship with God. Candidates may prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AGED 9-12 YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a parent.

Together in Jesus First Reconciliation for Grades 2 and 3: Children who are baptized are ready to prepare for First Reconciliation in the Year 1 group when they reach the minimum age of 7 years old. This program is suitable for children 7-9 years old. Lessons edify their imagination and sense of wonder through storytelling, interactive learning, and prayer rituals. Each student must participate with a parent.

Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Communion for Grades 3 and 4: Children who have received the sacrament of First Reconciliation are ready to prepare for Confirmation and First Communion in the Year 2 group. Candidates who were in the First Reconciliation Year 1 group at St Patrick's/Holy Cross are automatically registered into the Year 2 group. If your child is not registered and wishes to join this group, please contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org.

Please attend one of the Parent Info Sessions to be held on **Saturday Sep 14 at 3pm or Sep 21 at 5:15pm (30 min) at Holy Cross**. The First Reconciliation session for baptized candidates begins on Oct 5. Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion begins in January. This year all classes take place at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd) before or after the Saturday 4pm mass. For more information, contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org. Registration forms are available online: https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/cf/cf43cd4b-2408-4957-a83c-d18c6511d74a/documents/Registration_Form_2020_SP_-_Yrs_I_II_-_FILLABLE.pdf

News from the Chancery

Holy Cross Parish, Victoria is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. Information about the position and how to apply is available at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. The posting will remain open until the position is filled.

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
hcsppbaptismalprep@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