



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 20, 2020 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we are invited to reflect on the lessons of a generous God. God gives us everything in his power to give...life itself, the ability to learn and grow and love, and eternal happiness in Heaven. A God who is so generous it confounds our human hearts and we cry out...not fair!! Here is the message this week in five simple words: Only God sees the full picture. We do not!!!

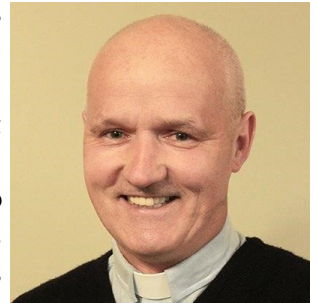
Just like our ancestors in the faith did who felt chosen and found it hard to hear that God also came for the gentiles. This parable is only found in Matthew's Gospel and Matthew wrote for an audience that was new Christians whose roots were Jewish... Jesus is sent first to the people who have been with Him and God's ways since Abraham and the early covenants. They have been faithful, laboring to be a part of God's kingdom. There are these late comers whom Jesus has called into the vineyard to labor with and for Him. They will be rewarded, though their fidelity has been shorter. The older and younger, the newly called and the ancients are all going to receive God's love equally. Oh yes, the God of surprises well you know, surprise!

Generosity is God's gift to us freely given flowing over and he waits for all people to come home to him regardless of how long they worked in the vineyard!! We struggle with a God so generous!!! The Gospel today gives us a taste of what God is like. Even then it is difficult enough. All it wants to instill in us is a taste for God's generosity for all. That has nothing to do with arbitrariness. Moreover, God's generosity, God's gift of justice, is never to our disadvantage, but to our benefit.

There is something foolish in God's generosity, in his kind of justice. God keeps reaching out and calling us to work in the vineyard; God will always surprise us by being overwhelmingly generous and merciful to each one of us. It would be interesting to ask: where do we see ourselves in this parable? What if it were meant for our community? Who would be the first? The last? God deals with both the devout and sinner in the same fashion: generously. God's grace pours out on all, whether they have earned it or not. All sorts of strange and surprising things happen that sometimes defy human expectations and ways of doing things.

The parable of the vineyard-workers is no blueprint for labour relations, but it illustrates very well Jesus' teaching about grace and mercy. There are consequences to be drawn and, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis wrote: "*The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.*" (§114) We need merely to accept the generosity of God as God chooses to share it with us. We cannot work harder trying to impress God to get a bigger response from God who is already totally generous. We need instead to be accepting of what God chooses to give to us, and to be grateful and humble.

With joy,
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

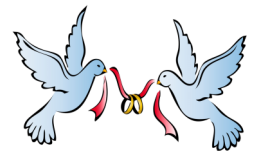
Father William has created a **YouTube** page and a **Facebook** page for the combined St. Patrick's and Holy Cross families! Please visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsHolyCross/>
Like and follow the page and please do send photos of the church for posting!

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, September 19th at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend a very special congratulations to **Adrea Narciso and Erich Tworuschka** who were married in our church this weekend. Please keep this young couple in prayer as they embark on this beautiful journey together. Wishing them both a life filled with love, health and abundant blessings!

**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

UPDATE ON ANNUAL APPEAL

As the upcoming Appeal starts I thought it was important for parishioners to know that during the pandemic the Diocese of Victoria has been able to provide some financial relief to parishes to allow them to concentrate on parishioners, employees and the vulnerable in their local communities. Several measures were put in place in March to help parishes weather the significant financial impact experienced by many. Below are some specific initiatives:

- The Diocesan Assessment was suspended for 3 months. During this time, the Diocese did not assess parish income which allowed 100% of the limited collections to be retained 100% by the parish. This equates to a subsidy of \$190,000 that was covered by funds raised in the previous year's Annual Appeal.
- Annual Appeal funds paid for COVID supplies for all parishes including signs, floor decals and Communion plexiglass shields.
- Through funds from the Appeal, direct cash subsidies are available for those small remote parishes and missions with no MIC savings who required immediate operating funds.
- The Appeal funds were the life line that provided funding for our retired clergy, office of Religious Education, First Nation's ministry, and allowed the Diocese to extend the above parish initiatives. At Holy Cross our appeal goal will help support the hard hit North Island missions in our own diocese.

Blessings, Fr. William

PRAYER REFLECTION

Our sins are nothing but a grain of sand alongside the great mountain of the mercy of God.

—Saint John Vianney

How can we pray to God for mercy if we ourselves have no mercy?

—Isaac Bashevis Singer

Mercy is the fulfillment of justice, not its abolition.

—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: *New hope, new look!* We have updated the Annual Appeal as *Horizons of Hope* after 10 years under the *Journey of Hearts & Hands* banner. We have a new look and feel...although it may be a little cloudy at the moment. Watch Bishop Gary's video and stay tuned for there will be more to come as we launch the Bishop's Appeal in the days ahead! Link to the Diocesan Blog: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/newhopenewlook>

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN CANADA

The annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will be held on **26 and 27 September 2020**. As part of their episcopal ministry, the Bishops will continue to work together on important doctrinal and ethical questions; ecumenical initiatives and interreligious dialogue; international relations; evangelization, faith education and catechesis; strengthening relations with Indigenous peoples; questions of social justice, and the development of a culture of life and family. The collection is primarily to assist Bishops in paying their annual diocesan/eparchial assessment to the CCCB as well as any yearly financial contribution they make to their regional episcopal assembly. All additional revenues that may be raised may be used by the diocese/eparchy for its own pastoral needs, although some Bishops choose to contribute these supplementary funds to the CCCB as a donation. If you would like to donate to this cause you can do so through the following link:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/direct-donations>

WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS

We received a lot of positive feedback on the Wednesday evening Mass that began this past week at Holy Cross, celebrated by Fr. William, on Sept. 16th at 7pm. There is still room to sign up for this Mass if you are interested, and if this time might work better for you. Please email Joanie at: officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org to register.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, September 19th

2:30-3:15pm Reconciliation

4:00pm Mass: **Eufrocina Narciso +**

SUNDAY, September 20th

9:00am Mass: **Mary and John Doyle +**

MONDAY, September 21st

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, September 22nd

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

WEDNESDAY, September 23rd

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

7:00pm Mass: **No intention**

THURSDAY, September 24th

9:00am Mass: **Brendan Henry +**

FRIDAY, September 25th

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

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

Wednesday: 7pm

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 13, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 1,875.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,452.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,327.00