

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - September 22, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

One would really expect better of the disciples. Although they had spent so much of their time in the company of Jesus, saw so much of his behaviour and heard so much of his preaching they were still wide of the mark in their understanding of greatness and service. Jesus himself set the pattern of real service: “though he was in the form of God.. he emptied himself, assuming the condition of a slave” (Phil. 2:6f.) In the Gospel of Mark Jesus predicts his passion three times within quite a short period of time. The first is in chapter eight (8:31-33) and takes place in Caesarea Philippi just after Peter’s profession of faith which was our Gospel last Sunday. The disciples are slow on the uptake but gradually they begin to get the message. This news about a forthcoming passion is hard for them to grasp and that’s why Jesus repeats it on several occasions. Does our world get it? The meek may one day inherit the Earth. But only after the strong and aggressive ones have blown each other to smithereens. Worldly power, as history has taught us, does not surrender its privileges without a fight. When the meek get in the crosshairs of what is deemed advantageous to the powerful, they quickly become an endangered species. The church champions the preferential option for the poor because Jesus did; and frankly, few else will. There’s no money in standing up for the disadvantaged; in fact, there’s money to be lost in casting your resources in the direction of the lowly. If you’re looking to get ahead, if you’re hoping for worldly success, if your intention is greatness by all the usual measures, then do not involve yourself with the concerns of the poor. If, however, you hope to be great in the measure of God’s kingdom, then by all means do forge a relationship with the meek that is genuine, proximate, and personally costly.

The way to greatness in the Kingdom, as noted, is by entering into real community with the lowly. When the disciples argued about who among them was first, Jesus placed a child in their midst—an irrelevant, powerless, nonperson by the standards of the ancient world. Not only does Jesus identify himself with such a shockingly negligible representative (“Whoever receives one such as this receives me”), but he also insists that when his disciples receive a child, God stands revealed in their midst. The first are last, the leader is the servant, God is in the child—does any of this make sense? Not by worldly standards. Nor is such a vision compatible with the ambition of those who have much and would obtain more. If we want to embrace the Kingdom vision, we must shake ourselves loose from the desire to climb, to possess, to be in charge, and to be invulnerable. The just one cannot protect himself or herself by definition. The just have only the confidence of the word of God, and it is enough.

We gather here in this Church week by week, we come here because of our faith, and we do so in order to pray and worship God together. We are Christ’s disciples in the world today we are trying our level best to live the way he wants us to live, we try to refrain from struggling for position, we try to live out the prescriptions of the Gospel in our daily lives. We know that we frequently fail, but with the help of God we pick ourselves up and start again in the knowledge that we are moving towards the goal for which we long so much. (continued)

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 or call 1-800-968-3146

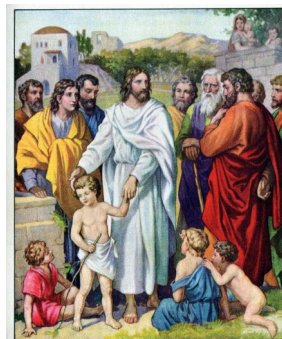
To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

(continued)

If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all. This teaching is at the heart of the Gospel. It is Jesus' recipe for discipleship. But be careful and notice what it doesn't mean. It doesn't mean putting yourself down all the time. It doesn't mean baseness before others. But the actual text says that Jesus wants us to be the servant of all. This sounds like a bit of a tall order, but it is actually all of a piece with serving Jesus. Our master gave his life for the whole human race. He valued each and every creature, he served even the lowest of the low. He did so not always in the way they expected but he changed their lives and through his actions enabled them to live in a new and better way. So, we should do no less. To put it at its simplest, we serve others in the way Jesus serves us.

In the presence of the disciples who seemed consumed with an ambition for power for its own sake Jesus identifies himself with the powerless, those who are most dependent on our care. Over against the ambition of the disciples to serve themselves, Jesus puts the ambition to serve him as he comes to us in and through the weakest members of society. In our gospel Jesus is putting before us what his family of disciples, what the church, is really about.

Love wins
Father William



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. The next sessions to choose from will be held on Saturday, September 28 from 10 - 12 and Saturday, November 16 from 10 - 12. Please email hcsbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details and forward you the baptism registration form.

Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada:

Supporting Bishops in Their Pastoral Mission Across the Country

The *Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada* will take place on 28-29 September 2024. This annual initiative is an important opportunity for the faithful to actively support and assist the Bishops in their ministry of accompanying, teaching, guiding, sanctifying, and caring for the Church in Canada. Please support the Collection. We thank you in advance for your generosity and continued commitment.

Development and Peace

The Victoria area **Development and Peace - Caritas Canada's** Fall campaign workshop will be held at **Holy Cross Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Rd., on Sat. Sep. 28, 9:00am - 12pm.** We continue our theme Create Hope: Reaping our rights and will discuss the rights of rural farmers and the need for mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation. Join us and find out how you can help these communities who care for the Earth and feed the world. More info: 250-580-4444.

Planet Positive Tips

Buy in bulk. Consider buying your non-perishable items like nuts, seeds, and grains in bulk. This requires less packaging, creating less waste. Also buy sustainably sourced goods wherever possible. By doing so you not only reduce your own environmental impact, you also make a big difference to businesses that are trying to do the right thing.



Prayer Reflection

I believe in that great love, that comes, or should come, from our heart, should start at home: with my family, my neighbors across the street, those right next door. And this love should then reach everyone.
—*Mother Teresa*

The whole world cannot rob of its peace the soul who really rests in God's love . . . because genuine love of God in God is for the soul a rampart that no violence can break down. Christ's peace is a rock . . .
—*Blessed Paul Giustiniana*

Funeral Plans for John Bidlake

Many people have been inquiring about the funeral plans for John Bidlake. These are now complete. The funeral Mass for John will be held at Holy Cross Parish on Friday, October 4th at 11am.
We offer our sincere condolences to Joanie at this difficult time.

Update from the Executive Committee

We wanted to thank you, Holy Cross Parishioners, for all your support and patience as we navigate these times at Holy Cross. And a big thank you to Sheila and Phil, for helping and collaborating with us.

We heard from the Bishop this week that we will continue to have priests to celebrate weekend masses until the last Sunday of Advent. Bishop Gary will celebrate Mass on Saturday evening and Father Eduardo on Sunday. We are very grateful to them.

Thank you

Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar, Dave Begg



Family Directories are in!

The family photo directories have been delivered and are available for pickup in the office during office hours. If you had your photo taken and have not yet picked up your directory, please come and see us.

Tuesday October 1 is Seniors for Climate Justice Day!

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls repeatedly for "intergenerational solidarity." Young people have led climate movements around the world. What can older people do to help? As the Season of Creation draws to its end, plan to join hundreds of seniors (and younger folks!) in a **rally in front of the Provincial Legislature from 2 to 4 pm**. Pressure the provincial and federal governments to end subsidies for the fossil-fuel industry. Read this [Times Colonist article](#) for more info. Be sure to drop by the [GVAT \(Greater Victoria Acting Together\)](#) info table, to find out more about its work on social and climate justice. All Holy Cross and Saint Patrick's parishioners are GVAT members.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 21, 2024
4PM MASS: Jess and Seny Narciso+

SUNDAY, September 22, 2024
9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, September 23, 2024
NO MASS

TUESDAY, September 24, 2024
9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Gilberto Pacheco+

WEDNESDAY, September 25, 2024
Liturgy of the Word with Communion

THURSDAY, September 26, 2024
9AM MASS: Romulo Sanz+ and Victoria Beruno+

FRIDAY, September 27, 2024
9AM MASS: Josephine Loughran+

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

Masks are optional at this time

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 3 - 3:45pm

COLLECTIONS , September 8, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 3,977.00
Loose	\$ 425.00
Canada Helps	\$ 337.75
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ <u>1,286.25</u>
	\$ 6,026.00

Thank you!

A very special thank you goes out to the team that has brought the Parish Directory into being. Leslie, Anna and Trudy - what a fabulous job you have done! The directory looks amazing!



News from the Chancery

1) Next week, the Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops will gather for its annual meeting, bringing together 79 Bishops to deliberate, discern, and discuss the life of the Church in Canada. For more information on the Plenary and some of the topics that will be discussed this year, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/catholic-bishops-of-canada-gather-for-the-annual-meeting-of-the-plenary-assembly/>

2) The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) is an agency of the Holy See which provides pastoral and humanitarian support throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India, and Eastern Europe. The Canadian branch of CNEWA is launching a campaign to raise \$600,000 to supply ten hospitals in Ukraine with medical equipment, hygiene products and transportation. For more information, and to donate, please visit <https://cnewa.org/ca/where-we-work/eastern-europe/ukraine/>

Volunteers Needed

Birthright is seeking out women willing to volunteer in our Victoria office for a three hour shift no more than one day per week. Training will be provided. Whether you are a student, a mother or a grandmother, or just interested in helping, please take few moments to discern whether you might be called to assist in this rewarding vocation which supports women to choose life. If so, please contact Peggy Chapeskie at 250.478.5372.

IT'S ALMOST HERE...CWL's *Fantastic FALL BAZAAR* being held on Saturday, October 5th from 9:30am to 2pm, at St. Patrick's Church, 2060 Haultain Street. Come and experience all the fun of a CWL Bazaar with this year's large variety of Kiosks, Quality Silent Auction, Tombola Raffle and so much more!

GET YOUR TOMBLA TICKETS! On sale until Oct. 5th – BAZAAR Day!

Don't miss this deal . . . \$1.00 could get you **\$100, \$200, OR \$300**. Tickets are available before and after weekend Mass at St. Patrick's and on September 28th after the 4pm Mass at Holy Cross Church; from CWL members or through Barb Shenton at bjeens958@gmail.com. All proceeds go towards St. Vincent de Paul – Rosalie's Village, Mt. St. Mary's Hospital, and The Oak Bay Volunteers Society.

110th World Day of Migrants

The 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on Sunday, September 29, 2024. This year's theme is "God walks with his people". For more information, please visit <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2024/giornata-mondiale-migrante-e-rifugiato-2024-tema-messaggio-papa.html>. at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5lyibguPRE>.

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