



# 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 27, 2020** **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In the parable of The Two Sons, Jesus explains our love for God is revealed by our actions.

Jesus is speaking to the Chief Priests and Elders of the people. His example is that the first son represents people that are outsiders such as the tax collectors and prostitutes. This first son, initially says “no” to his father, and then repents and goes out to work in the Vineyards. The second son, saves face and says “yes” to his father though he doesn't fulfill his promise.

You will all know this parable well and I have always wanted to use this statement....”This I know for sure....”, oh, not yet, but maybe one day! Now I would like to share how the different stages of my life discerned this teaching of Christ. As a very young child I would have said, “ I would never say 'no' to my Father” and really mean it. Now as a very young adult, I easily concluded that I would like the first boy who changed his mind and thus showed he loved and honoured his Father. The second boy's choice would have simply saddened me. And, here I am now as a parent/grandparent. I surprise myself by starting at the beginning. The message from Jesus is really a direct warning to the chief priests and elders to mend their ways. The truth is that even keeping the rules can lead us astray. If we end up with an attitude of self-serving religious superiority, we are not the good, and righteous children of God.

So, it is time to keep hope alive and say “yes” to our Father. Though we stumble, God is patient , loving and shows us mercy. Like the tax collectors and prostitutes we can open our hearts to repent and humbly walk with God. Recognizing the need for forgiveness is the first step. As opportunities arrive, God asks us to love our neighbour as ourself, with heart felt compassion and generosity.

Thinking of the two brothers, I wonder that they, like us, have 'busy' lives. How clear this is to us during these quiet times of Covid and smoke alert days. We have time to reflect. Would the boys feel they just couldn't work in the vineyards due to their many other commitments? How will we choose to respond to this gospel?

This parable comes with the flame of Jesus' Spirit to quicken our resolve to always change what needs to be changed, to repent and wholeheartedly do good things., and say, “Yes!” to our loving Father.

God is Love and all who live in Love, live in God.  
Marian Duke

### **OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7  
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844  
office@holycrossvictoria.org  
www.holycrossvictoria.org

**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 26th at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

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

**BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE**

The Gordon Head Refugee Sponsorship Constituent Group - aka the Gherkins <http://www.ghrscg.org> - continue to raise funds to support a multi-generational Syrian refugee family of eight coming to Victoria in 2021. Unable at this time to host the Syrian Dinner event generously supported by Holy Cross last autumn, the Gherkins are excited to be launching a Covid-friendly T-shirt & tote fundraiser featuring a lovely original design reminding us to "Be kind, be calm, be safe" - in 5 languages including Lekwungen and Arabic. We believe that Dr. Henry's motto is essential to our ability to manage the pandemic and that it reflects the value and importance of care and compassion for our fellow human beings. The locally designed and printed T-shirts (including Canadian made eco-friendly versions) and canvas totes are available at:

<http://gherkins-care-2020/myshopify.com>. Check it out and help us spread the word. Dr. Henry got her T-shirt this week. Your kind support is greatly appreciated. Info: 250 588-1146

**UPDATE ON ANNUAL APPEAL**

As the upcoming Appeal begins, 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. I mentioned a few in last week's bulletin. Here are some more.

The Diocese set up e-transfer options and online giving protocols for parishes within the first few weeks of the churches being closed.

The Diocesan Finance Department monitored, researched, investigated, compiled data and applied for available government subsidies. The Diocese was able to apply for the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy on a consolidated basis to assist those with payroll costs within days of the claim periods and, subsequently, were able to reimburse parishes on a regular and in a timely manner when cash flow was at a minimum.

We also assisted parishes with human resources issues, retention options or layoff notices in a rapidly changing regulatory environment.

The Diocese extended interest-free MIC loans and will not require principal repayment plans until churches reopen more fully. Repayments will be very reasonable and based on individual parish circumstances and their ability to pay.

I want to thank the Appeal team at Holy Cross for 2020: John Bartle-Clar; Phil and Sheila Wall; Esther Sangster-Gormley; and Debra Prior. Please feel free to contact any of the team if you have any questions.

Blessings, Fr. William

**PRAYER REFLECTION**

The fundamental thing for the member is to be united with all the other members of the Mystical Body; the essential Christian virtue is, then, the virtue which unites all members in Christ, that is, charity.  
—Émile Mersch, S.J.  
The gate of heaven is very low; only the humble can enter it.  
—Elizabeth Ann Seton

**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](http://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream).

**SUNDAY** ..... 10 AM  
**MONDAY TO FRIDAY** ..... 7 PM

**DIOCESAN BLOG:** Did you know..... This week the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) opened the first ever virtual Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of Canada, welcoming more than 80 Bishops logging in from dioceses and eparchies across Canada. The Bishops, who normally meet in person for the week, are meeting by videoconference in light of the existing health and safety restrictions regarding COVID-19. To find out more.... please follow the link below to the latest Diocesan Blog post:  
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/cccbvirtualplenary2020>

**NOTE FROM THE CATHEDRAL**

During the current COVID-19 restrictions and provincially-mandated occupancy limits for Mass attendance, parishioners of the Catholic Churches in the Victoria region are respectfully requested to attend Masses at their home parishes only, which will allow Cathedral parishioners the opportunity to attend Mass at their home parish. If you are finding it difficult to register for Mass at your home parish, please speak with your pastor about your situation. The Cathedral does remain open to everyone for private prayer Monday to Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm and on Saturdays from 10:45 am - 3:00 pm. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

**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**. 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>

**OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:**

**SATURDAY, September 26th**

2:30-3:15pm Reconciliation  
4:00pm Mass: **Esther Quison +**

**SUNDAY, September 27th**

9:00am Mass: **Mike Caputo +**

**MONDAY, September 28th**

Office Closed/No Mass

**TUESDAY, September 29th**

9:00 am Mass: **Mike Caputo +**

**WEDNESDAY, September 30th**

9:00am Mass: **Fred Schimetsch +**  
7:00pm Mass: **No Intention**

**THURSDAY, October 1st**

9:00am Mass: **Michael Gormely +**

**FRIDAY, October 2nd**

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

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*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 20, 2020**

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:**

<b>Envelopes/Canada Helps</b>	\$ 2, 570.00
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	\$ 1,452.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,022.00</b>
<b>SVPD</b>	\$795.00