



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - September 29, 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus opts for a complete reversal of the ordinary meaning of greatness. He took the pecking order that holds society together, turned it upside down, and introduced a new one in which the measure of greatness is in God's kind of world. Greatness in Jesus eyes is not in what you have but in who you are. Last week the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. Jesus responded by *saying if anyone wants to be first; they must make themselves last of all and servant of all.* By way of illustration- to get this point across- Jesus placed a little child in front of them and put his arms around him. This gesture on the part of Jesus had nothing to do with a politician on the campaign trail having his picture taken with a child's offering a bouquet of flowers when an important visitor needs to be welcomed. In Jesus' action, it is the awe and simplicity and openness of a child that reminds us of our greatest dignity. When Jesus embraced that child, he gives us an indication of what the measure of greatness is in the Kingdom of God. It is not power, but service that decides who is first and last in God's Kingdom. By becoming servant to the least significant members of society, by devoting oneself to those who are least able to reward us for such service, we fulfill Jesus' mandate about true greatness.

These very disciples were being groomed by Jesus to take over his work and, even during his public life. They were doing the same work as Jesus; they were healing the sick and they were freeing people from the power of evil spirits. At this early stage in their relationship with Jesus, they were still learning the difference between coercive power and service. Jesus provides a truth for his disciples which we would do well to take note of: *"Anyone who is not against us is for us."* God can and does use anyone to do his work. Neither I, nor you or any religion or the Church have a monopoly on God's work or on God's truth or on God's love or on God's power to heal and reconcile. Jesus never loses a night's sleep worrying about cultic observance, rival or otherwise. His ministry was issuing an ongoing invitation to the claims of the Kingdom. If someone took him at his word and embraced the ways of the Kingdom—feeding the hungry, healing the sick, championing the poor, and casting out demons—why would Jesus be against that?

After this comment that others healing in his name could not be against him, Jesus suddenly shifts the focus to personal holiness using some seemingly disturbing categorical statements in doing so. What are we to make of these statements to pluck out one's eyes and cut off one's hands if they lead us to sin? Imagine how many of us may still have complete body parts. May I suggest that here Jesus is using exaggeration, common in his culture, to make a point. An example of this might be a mother telling her child that she told her a million times not to do something. Both know that the number one million isn't true, but designed to get the message across to the child that behaving in a certain way is important.

But now come words of warning. They are primarily for us, the baptized, although they are addressed again to "anyone". *"Anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck."* The word 'obstacle' here used to be translated 'scandal'. The Greek word means something that trips a person and causes him to fall. Jesus is saying that it is a terrible thing to be the cause of a person being led astray and away from Christ and the Gospel. He refers particularly to the "little ones". These are not just children (although they would clearly be included) but also the weakest members of the community: weak perhaps because of their young age, or their lack of learning, or their low place in society, or their being new converts not yet matured in the Christian way of living, or their being morally weak and easily misled. En route home to Victoria. See you soon!

No tripping

Father William

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

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. 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: Thank you for your continued support!

Each year, with the generosity of the Catholic faithful from coast to coast, the Bishops of Canada continue to address pastoral and ethical issues at the CCCB (national conference) and Regional Episcopal Assemblies.

"On behalf of all the Bishops of Canada, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your invaluable collaboration in this annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada. Your continued support is deeply appreciated and plays a vital role in advancing our mission..." Donations can be made through your local parish, or online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13547>. To receive CCCB news through our free and confidential email service, please fill out the registration form at <https://www.cccb.ca/en/news/subscribe/>

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.

Foster & Promote Vocations with the Serra Club @ SJTW on Thursday 17 October @ 6-8 pm

Join us for Holy Mass and Eucharistic Adoration followed by an engaging talk by Fr. Sean Flynn who will share his own vocation story. Be encouraged as he explains the importance of creating a culture of vocations in parishes, specifically how families can nurture a vocational calling to the priesthood for their sons. We will finish the evening with a small reception with food & fellowship. All are welcome!

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.

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

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!

Prayer Reflection

There are those who seem outside the sheepfold yet are inside it, and others who seem inside but are actually outside.

—*Saint Augustine of Hippo*

The cry of the oppressed is God’s voice. . . . The cry of the voiceless and the hopeless is God’s voice. . . . The protest of the poor is God’s voice. . . . And the voice of the countries who are victims of these injustices is God’s voice.

—*Dom Hélder Câmara*

Please Note: There is no 9am Mass on Friday, October 4th, as the funeral for John Bidlake will be held at 11am.

Special Staffing Announcement

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to Sloane Secord, our new Administrative Assistant. Sloane is doing orientation with Phil and Sheila until October 18th, then will take over the reigns! Please stop by the office and welcome Sloane to our community.

Invitation from St Jean Baptiste Parish

Francophone? Est-ce que vous êtes au courant qu’il existe la Paroisse Française St.Jean-Baptiste à 307 Richmond, Victoria? Chaque Dimanche à 13 :30 hrs. nous célébrons en Français l’Eucharistie/la Messe avec notre cure le Père Rolf Hasenack, OP et avec des chants et accompagnement au piano et au guitar.

Please see the bulletin board for information regarding a presentation, from a Catholic perspective, by Dr. Cynthia Barco - ‘Facts About Fertility Explained’ to be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on October 12, 2024.

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.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT – TOMBOLA TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!!!!

Bring your money - \$1 for one, ticket, \$5 for five tickets, or \$10 for a book ten tickets for a chance to \$300, \$200 OR \$100 dollars! **All** proceeds go towards St. Vincent de Paul – Rosalie’s Village, Mt. St. Mary’s Hospital, and The Oak Bay Volunteers Society.

Tickets are available before and after weekend Mass at St. Patrick’s and Holy Cross Church from CWL members or through Barb Shenton at bjeens958@gmail.com OR at the Bazaar on Saturday Oct. 5, 2024. **DRAW** will be at **2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall** at the Bazaar!

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 28, 2024

4PM MASS: Bredan Henry+

SUNDAY, September 29, 2024

9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, September 30, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, October 1, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Joe Hilario+

WEDNESDAY, October 2, 2024

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

THURSDAY, October 3, 2024

9AM MASS: Anne Hayes+

FRIDAY, October 4, 2024

11AM Funeral for John Bidlake

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 , Sept. 22, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 2,470.00
Loose	\$ 355.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ <u>1,286.25</u>
	\$ 4111.25



Thank you!

A special thanks goes out to Bishop Gary and Father Eduardo for their continued presence at weekend Masses at Holy Cross Parish!

News from the Chancery

- 1) On Monday, September 30, Canada will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day was established in 2021 to honour the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. One step on the Catholic church's path of healing and reconciliation is the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. To learn more, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/indigenous/walking-the-path-of-healing-reconciliation>.
- 2) The annual Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is happening this week, bringing together members of the CCCB from across Canada for discussion on a broad range of topics affecting the Catholic faithful in Canada. For more information, including video recaps of each day of the Plenary, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/the-2024-cccb-plenary-assembly>.
- 3) 40 Days for Life invites you to pray for an end to abortion by participating in their annual fall vigil, which runs this year from September 25 – November 3. Campaign Life Coalition also invites you to join Life Chain, a peaceful prayer demonstration which will be held this year on October 6 from 2-3 pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/victoriabc> and <https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain>.
- 4) 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, including Pope Francis' Message for the Day and a video, please visit <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2024/giornata-mondiale-migrante-e-rifugiato-2024-tema-messaggio-papa.html>
- 5) Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Esquimalt is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. For more information about the position and how to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Applications must be received by October 14.
- 6) Songhees Nation is hosting the third annual South Island Powwow on Monday, September 30 at Royal Athletic Park in Victoria. The Diocese of Victoria is again sponsoring this event, which offers an opportunity to celebrate traditional Indigenous cultures and resiliency. All are invited to attend the powwow. The day runs from 10 am to 10 pm, and will include dance and drumming performances and competitions, carving demonstrations, and craft and food vendors. Admission is free.
- 7) The Diocese is now accepting applications for the position of Senior Accountant. The job posting may be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment> The posting will be open until the position is filled.

The **Monthly Sunday night Bridge** season begins on November 3rd. This will mark the 43rd year of this enjoyable social evening at Holy Cross. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information please contact Tony Southwell at (250)477-5738 or e-mail: tony_southwell@hotmail.com

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
hcsbpbaptismalprep@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