



# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twining with St. Patrick's Parish

**SUNDAY - September 3 2023**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

It is Labor Day weekend! Why all this talk of work on Labor Day weekend? Because work is good. The work we do to maintain ourselves, or for the sake of those we love, or to make a livelihood are all vital to what it means to be human. Daily, you and I produce something: maybe it is a meal, we bathe children—or elders. We may teach, take an order, preach a homily, plant seeds, pick vegetables. We give our time and attention to people who need it: family members, coworkers, sometimes strangers. We give our “living sacrifice of praise” to God—yes, our prayer is considered a form of work. The word *liturgy* means public work. On the face of it, according to this weekend's readings, the life of faith can be unpleasant. It grows out of deception, anger, rejection, and pain (Jeremiah); deprivation and thirst (the psalm); and involves sacrifice (Paul) and more rejection sacrifice (the gospel). But of course, there is more to it. Yearning and deprivation lead to glory; thirst too leads to a banquet; sacrifice to renewal; denial and the cross to kindness which “is a greater good than life.”

In scripture today, we hear Jeremiah's lament about how hard it is to be a prophet—a job he never wanted, a labor he got drafted into and regrets often. Jeremiah felt “duped” by God because the people mocked him. Have you ever felt “duped” by God? Have you been able to examine that feeling more closely and come to a deeper understanding of your life's purpose? Paul asks us not to “conform to this age.” How have you felt pressured in your own life to conform or not to “make waves”? How have you resisted mindless conformity? Have you ever sensed that a decision or commitment you made for the sake of the gospel would bring you hardship or suffering, as Jesus predicted it would for him. Peter does not like to suffer, so he cannot imagine that God might make use of human suffering for divine ends. The idea that fuller life might flower up from death has not occurred to him. Most of all, Peter interprets the proposed death of Jesus as the road to nowhere. Peter will feel vindicated in his trust if these three hard years are the price paid for establishing an earthly kingdom. But if this journey winds up in a brutal execution, the whole mission will have been worthless.

Each generation is at risk of conforming to the present age—a bad idea whatever age it might be. The present age is always passing, trapped in history, and limited by the nearsightedness of finite creatures. If our goal is to discern the will of God and to do it, living in harmony with “what is good and pleasing and perfect,” clearing our lives of obstacles to the way of holiness is a prerequisite. “The renewal of the mind,” as Paul terms it, involves surrendering our habitual manner of thinking and being—a process that can feel very much like a death. *Saint Augustine of Hippo* wrote... there can only be two basic loves . . . the love of God unto the forgetfulness of self, or the love of self unto the forgetfulness and denial of God.

September blessings

Father William



## OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm  
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm  
**Fr. William Hann, Pastor**  
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.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry) or call 1-800-968-3146  
To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit [BishopReportingSystem.ca](https://www.bishopreportingsystem.ca) or call 1-866-892-3737

### **LIVESTREAM MASSES**

Just a reminder that there will be no livestreaming of Masses from Holy Cross or St. Patrick's Parishes until September 9th. For the Diocesan livestreaming schedule, please go to [RCD Victoria Live One - YouTube](#)

### **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. Please note that the next sessions for Baptismal Preparation are: Saturday, September 9th and Saturday, October 21st (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email [hcsbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org) with your name, contact information and choice of dates. The coordinator will email you a registration form.

### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

Who Is Jesus Christ? What are Sacraments? Whether you're just curious about Catholicism or eager to enter the Faith, RCIA may be the journey you're called to this Fall. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which non-Catholics enter the Catholic Faith. Join us to explore what the Holy Spirit has in store for you! Please contact your pastor to have a dialogue and then register with Carmelle & Chris Whiteley to sign up for the initial evening on September 21st. 250-886-2987 or [carmelle.whiteley@gmail.com](mailto:carmelle.whiteley@gmail.com)



Blessings on all our Teachers and Students as they return to school this coming week. May each of you experience joy and success in this new year of teaching and learning!

### **NEW USHERS WELCOME**

If you like saying “Hello” to people and welcoming them to Mass - and looking for a new way to serve our community, we would love to have you join our Usher Team at Holy Cross. Currently, we have a complement of three ushers per Mass. We are looking to increase this to four per Mass, beginning with our new schedule - which runs from **October 1/2023 to June 30/2024**. Your commitment would be only one Saturday or Sunday a month. Please give me a call or send an email if interested, to: Joanie Bidlake at [Officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:Officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org) or Holy Cross - Office Phone: 250-477-5321. I look forward to hearing from you by September 15, 2023. Training provided. Thank you!

### **Pastoral Care Outreach Training series:**

Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 23 and running until November 25, 2023 (with no session on October 7 for Thanksgiving). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection and access to Zoom. Whether you are a member of your parish Pastoral Care Team, an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, CWL or St. Vincent de Paul, clergy or religious, caring for a family member, or someone attending as a personal undertaking, this training program is important. It will show why those who visit the sick are unique and how they can offer more than a friendly visit – they can be the hands and face of Christ to others. Bishop Gary Gordon feels “it is important to have parishioners trained at the ready to provide a caring and compassionate experience to those who are most in need.” Please register through your local parish by September 12. For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca)

### **Holy Cross/St. Pat's Social and Eco-Justice Committee**

The Holy Cross/St. Pat's Social and Eco-Justice Committee will meet on Wed. Sep. 13 at 7 pm in the Boardroom of St. Patrick's Parish, 2nd floor of the parish centre. All are welcome. Three short videos (5 min.) on Laudato Si can be viewed online. Watch one or all three. Pope Francis invites us to celebrate the Season of Creation.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_lqFTYLc\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4) - Pope Francis and Laudato Si

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3Lz7dmnIeM&t=5s> - Animated from CAFOD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIVuISZGdug> - Animated from Development and Peace

### Prayer Reflection

There is no better wood for feeding the fire of God's love than the wood of the cross.

—*Saint Ignatius of Loyola*

You want to see his altar? This altar is made of Christ's own members, and the Lord's body becomes an altar for you. Venerate it. It is more august than the stone altar on which you offer the holy sacrifice.

—*John Chrysostom (c. 350-407)*

### **OUR LITURGICAL LIFE**

#### **SATURDAY, September 2nd**

4PM Mass: Salvatore Ciccone+

#### **SUNDAY, September 3rd**

9AM Mass: Miriam Li+

#### **MONDAY, September 4th**

NO MASS

#### **TUESDAY, September 5th**

9AM Liturgy of the Word

(Trish Westwood)

Ursula Toner+

#### **WEDNESDAY, September 6th**

NO MASS

#### **THURSDAY, September 7th**

9AM Mass: Ethan Stone+

#### **FRIDAY, September 8th**

NO MASS

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Church will be open for private prayers this week from Tuesday to Friday, 9am—noon**

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 Mercy Chapel

**Masks are no longer mandatory indoors. We do encourage those who feel more comfortable to wear them as needed. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.**

#### **COLLECTIONS for the month of August 2023**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 5,766.00
Loose	\$ 1,502.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 5,480.00
Canada Helps	\$ 175.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,973.00</b>

### **Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3,2023**

“For what will it profit anyone to gain the whole world but forfeit their life?” Isn't there more to life than chasing the dollar? Are you being called to be a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Humbly ask the Lord. If God is calling you contact Fr. David Hogman or Fr. Harrison Ayre, Directors of Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria.

**Fr. David Hogman:** [dhogman@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:dhogman@rcdvictoria.org)

**Fr. Harrison Ayre:** [hayre@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hayre@rcdvictoria.org)

### **Tenant Start-up Kit for Our Place**



Once again, the Social Eco Justice Committee is looking for donations to assist a person in need to be able to move to safe housing through Our Place Society. A sign-up list of needed items will be placed in the church foyer. This time we do not need to supply a (new) mattress, however a clean microwave oven in good working order is an ask. We appreciate the generosity of parishioners with their donations again this year.



### **Mark your calendar!**

There is an upcoming concert at Holy Cross on Sunday, September 24th at 2pm. Locarno is a Latin/ Mexican group that will bring a lively and joyous sound to our listening ears! And, you WILL want to dance!! <https://locarnoband.com>



### **Olive Wood Carvings**

The Holy Land Group will have religious olive wood carvings for sale in the foyer on September 10<sup>th</sup> after the 9am Mass. These articles are hand crafted by the Christians of the Holy Land who are seeking your support to assist them in staying rooted in the land of Christ. **70 years ago, the Christian population was 20 % of the whole population, now they are only 1.0%.**

It is also a way of preserving a local cultural heritage which is in danger of being lost as more Christians feel pressured to leave their homeland for economic and political reasons. These religious articles can be used as gifts for first communions, Christmas and other occasions. In addition, some of these articles can be used as a means of praying and providing comfort, strength, and even hope for people who are suffering. Payment may be made by cash, e-Transfer or by cheque.



### **Thank You!**

Thank you for the sweet sound of music provided not only by Suzy and Tanya Taft, but also Suzy's daughter and son-in-law, Sonya and Emmanuel, visiting from Ottawa, who added violin and recorder accompaniment these past Sundays!



## News from the Chancery

1) Star of the North Retreat Centre is offering three learning modules in 2023/2024 as part of its “Aurora Living: Word and Creation” program:

Fall 2023 - *Good News: An Invitation to Everyone* with facilitators Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, Dr. Linda Gibler, Ron Rolheiser, & more [www.starofthenorth.ca/goodnews](http://www.starofthenorth.ca/goodnews)

Winter 2024 – *Communion: Words for a New Community* with facilitators Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, Lewis Cardinal, Ron Rolheiser & more [www.starofthenorth.ca/communion](http://www.starofthenorth.ca/communion)

Spring 2024 – *New Creation: Hope in Troubled Times* with facilitators Becky Moritz Bonham, Dr. Michel Andraos, Ron Rolheiser & more [www.starofthenorth.ca/newcreation](http://www.starofthenorth.ca/newcreation)

More information and online registration can be found at the links above. **Please note that the early-bird registration deadline for the Fall 2023 module is this Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

2) Returning to Spirit is holding a *Roots of Reconciliation* workshop for Indigenous people aged 18+ from September 25 – 28 in Port Alberni. *Roots of Reconciliation* is four-day workshop essential to the Returning to Spirit reconciliation model (<https://www.returningtospirit.org/>). The insights developed during the workshop create space for participants to discover how previously-held behaviours, judgment, assumptions or perceptions have kept them stuck in a disempowering story.

This workshop is for you if you:

- want to explore your own assumptions, judgments and behaviours
- are ready to deepen your experience with reconciliation
- are curious and open minded about what reconciliation can look like on a personal level

The workshop will run from Monday, September 25 - Thursday, September 28, 2023 at Alberni Valley United Church in Port Alberni from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm each day. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.returningtospirit.org/workshopcalendar/roots-of-reconciliation-4>, email [info@returningtospirit.org](mailto:info@returningtospirit.org), or call 1-855-244-3963.

3) The National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has launched its Emergency Funds Appeal to help people impacted by natural disasters in Canada. Donations will be used by their Conferences and Councils to complement the relief efforts by first responder organisations, focusing on food and clothing. Every dollar donated will be matched by the National Council, up to a limit of \$25,000. To make a donation online, visit <https://www.imakeanonlinedonation.org/ssvp-national/DONATION/> and select “National Emergency Fund” where it asks how to direct your donation.

**Pastor: Fr. William Hann**

250-477-5321

250-294-9615 (after hours)

**Hospital Chaplain:** 250-889-3761

**Administrative Assistants:** Phil & Sheila Wall

250-477-5321 [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**University Chaplain:** Dan Taft

**Parish Council Chair:** Catherine Davis

**Sacramental Preparation:** Michele Bristow

[preparationsacramental@gmail.com](mailto:preparationsacramental@gmail.com)

**Baptismal Preparation:** Beverly Pulyk

[hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org)

## **WELCOME BACK!**

We welcome Father William back on Wednesday of this coming week. We hope that you have had an amazing and rejuvenating holiday on ‘the Rock’, Father!



holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

## **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.