



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 6, 2020 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's readings, we are called to be sentinels of God's truth in the world. As the body of Christ, baptized priest, prophet, and king, we are responsible for the well-being of one another. In today's individualistic world, this is an uncomfortable position to be in, yet we cannot sidestep our responsibilities, for our own lives are on the line!

God calls each of us to be living witnesses to God's truth through our thoughts, our words, and our actions. God also expects us to be accountable for others who have stumbled and lost their way. We are called to gently guide them back to the fold, not in judgment, but through God's wisdom, grace, and love. Dignity remains intact. The goal is always reconciliation, forgiveness, and conversion of heart for we are God's beloved, called to live in right relationship with God.

I just finished reading Austin Ivereich's book, *Wounded Shepherd Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church*. Pope Francis models, with humility and love, the three steps for conversion Jesus outlines in Matthew's Gospel today. When Francis became pope, he didn't clean house and surround himself with those who supported his ideas of church. Rather, he engaged in "a hearts-and-minds conversion" with those around him in weeklong silent retreats using the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, the art of discernment, and the space and time to be present to God's mercy and grace.

Ivereich writes how Pope Francis summoned his bishops in Chile together using a prepared ten-page letter that he read out to them before giving it to them to go off and pray over. "The letter began by recalling God's original favor and mercy, asked the bishops to recognize where God had been rejected in favor of idols, and invited them to come home. He asked them to be honest and contrite, and to take responsibility rather than blaming and scapegoating. The only way forward was to assume the task synodally, as a body, walking together. We are gathered to discern, not to discuss, to discern the good and bad spirits, not to argue about who was right and wrong; and the sign that they had discerned well would be the true peace that was the fruit of seeking God's will. Theirs was a time of trial, but also of grace; a time to be liberated of false certainties and instead to listen to the voice of the Lord."

Pope Francis is not immune and when he realized how badly he had misread the Chilean church, he took full responsibility and begged forgiveness. He became aware of his sin, took responsibility to initiate action, and effected a positive change. "A pastor who admitted his errors rather than ignoring them or explaining them away was someone with the courage and credibility to lead the church where she needs to go."

Pope Francis used courage, discernment, humble listening, and plenty of prayer. He gave space for others to save face. We are called to love, to be love, to soften our hearts so the voice of God can saturate our being with generative, unconditional love as we journey together.

In God's abundance,

Mona Goodman

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 5th at 4pm on the YouTube page.**

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION COURSES 2020/2021

As summer progresses many of us are beginning to look ahead to the upcoming year for the Sacraments of Confession, Confirmation & First Holy Communion. We plan to have classes beginning in late September. Due to COVID-19, how this year of preparation will unfold is still being planned. For now, we welcome new registrations for either year. Please send an email to barbshenton@ics.rcdvictoria.org with your family name, your child's name and age and a return email. A registration form will be forwarded to you.

CALLING ALL CATECHISTS

“Walk with Jesus Our Living Hope”

All Catechists, Youth Leaders, Educators, and those interested in these ministries, are invited to a **Catechist Retreat Hour+ via ZOOM**

October 3rd from 9:30am- 11:00am featuring Michael Chiasson from Access52 Ministries <https://access52.com/>

Michael will help us renew our hope in these challenging times. He will inspire and share practical ideas for catechesis during COVID 19.

Please register by emailing gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org

Please Join Us!

DIOCESAN BLOG

The current pandemic has led us to rediscover new means of sharing and communication. As such, the Bishop of Victoria and the Pastoral Centre hopes to reach out to the people of God in our communities on a more consistent weekly basis via the Diocesan Blog to share news and stories from around the Diocese. The blog hopes to feature ‘Our Church of Many Faces’ as a regular story telling of life unfolding in one of our diverse communities. We will publish timely updates about what’s happening in our Diocese, share stories, and announce initiatives from the Pastoral Centre such as courses, appeals, news, and anything else that will help us to stay connected.

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog>

We hope you'll enjoy these segments as a way of connecting us all throughout our diverse Diocese on beautiful Vancouver Island.



View of St. Joseph's Church Tahsis - from Parish house

PRAYER REFLECTION

If we were good at everything, we would have no need for each other.
—Simon Sinek
We must be saved together. We must reach God together. We must present ourselves to him together. We must not expect to find God without the help of others. We must all come back together into our father’s house. . . . We must work a little for others. What would he say to us if we arrived separately?
—Charles Péguy
From listening comes wisdom, and from speaking repentance.
—Italian proverb

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

MERLIN’S MUSINGS: These can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesan-blog/merlinsmusings17>

Note: During the summer months the Diocesan Pastoral Centre will **be closed on Fridays**. Please see their website for current opening hours: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/>

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Island Catholic Schools is accepting applications for the following positions:

- After School Care Worker at St. Joseph’s School (Monday–Friday; 3:00-6:00pm)
- Full-time, part-time and on-call Educational Assistants for schools in Victoria.

Application forms and details are posted at: <http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

Congratulations to all the children who received their Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this week. Seven children from Holy Cross Parish and nineteen from St. Patrick’s parish came together (socially distanced) over the course of three days for this special occasion. And special it was indeed!

Thank you to all who made these days happen for the children, especially Fr. William Hann, Barbara Shenton, Keefer Pollard, Loretta MacDonald, Marlon Narciso, Susan Smedley, Deborah Mackay and Valentina Boyd.



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, September 5th

2:30-3:15pm Reconciliation
4:00pm Mass: **Silvestre Paulino Jr. +**

SUNDAY, September 6th

9:00am Mass: **Frank Oldridge +**

MONDAY, September 7th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, September 8th

9:00 am Mass: **Vera Landucci +**

WEDNESDAY, September 9th

9:00am Mass: **Noemia Ribeiro+**

THURSDAY, September 10th

9:00am Mass: **Thanksgiving Int.**

FRIDAY, September 11th

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
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 August 30, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes/Canada Helps	\$ 2,155.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,452.00
TOTAL	\$ 3, 607.00