

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - September 8, 2024
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

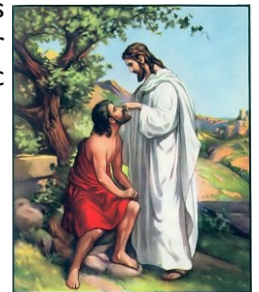
The Gospel of Mark is the earliest of the four Gospels and is the one that brings us closest to the humanity of Jesus. Unlike the other Gospels it makes direct statements about what Jesus was thinking or feeling. It contains two miracle stories that are not taken up in the later Gospels and that show Jesus's healing activity as involving a struggle and an element of trial-and-error. In both stories he uses healing techniques that were common at the time, such as the use of saliva. In today's story the people ask Jesus to "lay his hands" on the deaf man — referring to the common gesture of healers. Jesus again takes the man aside, touches his ears with his fingers, and his tongue with his spittle. Salvation in all the readings is seen as a reversal of situations: the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame leap, the speechless speak, waters flow from the desert, and the poor become rich. In today's Gospel, "People brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment." It is interesting to note that Jesus took the deaf man aside "in private." Jesus wanted to take him away from the public glares and nosey nature of those that judged his every move. Jesus was interested in him and wanted what was best for him. When Jesus touched him, the man's ears were opened, the bond of his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Look what happened when this man met Jesus! Jesus restored meaning to his life. That is what healing means. When Jesus took him aside and touched his tongue his dignity was restored. The misery of the man has come to an end. The arms of God are wide open for him. His splendid isolation, his not being welcome to anyone, his being stepped on by being forced to believe that God especially would have no use for him, and as a result, having to live as a dead person among the living, all this has come to an end. It was because of his relationship with Jesus that the man was healed. The people around were astounded. They cry out almost in chorus: "He has done all things well; he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak." They echo the lovely words from Isaiah in the First Reading: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy." The future promised by the prophet has now arrived. It is still arriving!

Although Jesus tried to restrain the man in today's Gospel, the cured man and all those around proclaimed what had happened everywhere they went. Really the man just had to do it. After all, he was now hearing, and he was now able to share with others what he had heard and experienced. As Christians we want to be visible to God, be it in our joys or sorrows. God has found us; God knows that there is something more to who we are that we have a destiny. God longs with an all-powerful love to draw us into the circle of life. Do we realize that we are deaf? Does it occur to us that, as individuals and as church, we do not yet fully understand the message of Jesus? Is that not the reason why we have a speech impediment and the people of our time no longer understand us when we try to tell the Good News? As individuals and as church we need to come to Jesus for healing. And this can happen here, far from the madding crowds, in the privacy of the Eucharistic celebration.

Eyes on Jesus

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 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 session to choose from will be held on Saturday, September 28 from 10 - 12.

Please email hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism and forward you the baptism registration form.

. 2024/25 Sacramental Preparation Programs for Children/Teenagers of St Patrick's and Holy Cross

Journey of Faith for Teenagers: Learn about the Catholic Faith, what it means to follow Jesus, and how to receive the graces needed to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. This program is designed for teenagers to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in right relationship with God. Students may prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL STUDENTS AGED 13+ YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a sponsor.

Journey of Faith for Children: Does your child want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? This program is designed for children to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in relationship with God. Candidates may prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AGED 9-12 YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a parent.

Together in Jesus First Reconciliation for Grades 2 and 3: Children who are baptized are ready to prepare for First Reconciliation in the Year 1 group when they reach the minimum age of 7 years old. This program is suitable for children 7-9 years old. Lessons edify their imagination and sense of wonder through storytelling, interactive learning, and prayer rituals. Each student must participate with a parent.

Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Communion for Grades 3 and 4: Children who have received the sacrament of First Reconciliation are ready to prepare for Confirmation and First Communion in the Year 2 group. Candidates who were in the First Reconciliation Year 1 group at St Patrick's/Holy Cross are automatically registered into the Year 2 group. If your child is not registered and wishes to join this group, please contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org.

Please attend one of the Parent Info Sessions to be held on **Saturday Sep 14 at 3pm or Sep 21 at 5:15pm (30 min) at Holy Cross**. The First Reconciliation session for baptized candidates begins on Oct 5. Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion begins in January. This year all classes take place at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd) before or after the Saturday 4pm mass. For more information, contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org. Registration forms are available online: https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/cf/cf43cd4b-2408-4957-a83c-d18c6511d74a/documents/Registration_Form_2020_SP_-_Yrs_I_II_-_FILLABLE.pdf

St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen Needs Soup Makers!

The Soup Kitchen, located in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral, needs volunteers to prepare our daily soups.

Position details:

One morning a week from Monday to Friday including holidays.

Hours: 4:00 am – 6:00 am.

This can be a one or two-person position.

Onsite training provided.

Food Safe certificate required – will be paid for by The Soup Kitchen.

Please contact Sheila Connelly at 250.598.4339 to find out more about becoming a soup maker.



Prayer Reflection

I address a strong appeal that the dignity and safety of the workers always be protected.

—Pope Francis

We are all healers who can reach out and offer health, and we are all patients in constant need of help.

—Henri Nouwen

There must be a reason why some people can afford to live well. But I tell you, this provokes avarice, and there comes the sin. Richness is given by God, and it is our duty to divide it with those less favored.

—Mother Teresa

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Or perhaps were you baptized Catholic as a child, but have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Parishes in the city of Victoria are collaborating to offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, beginning in the fall. For more information or to register for the 2024–25 year, please contact the parish office.

Planet Positive Tips

September marks the marks the Season of Creation – a time to join Pope Francis in prayer for our Earth. Let us especially remember our brothers and sisters who are victims of environmental disasters and the ongoing climate crisis.

As we pray, let us also commit to caring for the world we live in, making intentional choices to protect and preserve our common home. In keeping with this the Social and Eco-Justice Committee offer Planet Positive Tips bi-weekly. Collectively these small changes can have a significantly positive impact on our planet.

Reduce energy use.

There are so many ways to save energy (and money) at home.

Turn off lights and electrical appliances and devices when not in use. Don't leave fully charged devices plugged in.

Buy low-energy use bulbs.

Seal drafts and insulate adequately.

Put on an extra layer before turning up the heating.



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 7, 2024

10AM Funeral Mass for
Vincent Cain+

4PM MASS: Frank Suklje+
Lou Slavko Horvat+

SUNDAY, September 8, 2024

9AM MASS: Pro Populo

MONDAY, September 9, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, September 10, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with
Communion

Silvino Pimentel+

WEDNESDAY, September 11,

2024

11:30 Funeral Mass for
Caterina Scigliano+

THURSDAY, September 12, 2024

Liturgy of the Word

FRIDAY, September 13, 2024

9AM MASS: Joe Hilario+

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

Masks are optional at this time

***The Sacrament of Reconciliation
is available from 3:00- 3:45 on
Saturdays***

COLLECTIONS , September 1, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 1,720.00 |
| Loose | \$ 515.00 |
| Pope's Pastoral Work | \$ 50.00 |
| Anawim | \$ 20.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$ 1,286.25 |
| | \$ 3,591.25 |

PLEASE NOTE: There is no Liturgy of the Word on Wednesday morning as there is an 11:30 Funeral, and there is no Mass on Thursday morning, September 12 as Father Edward is on retreat instead there will be Liturgy of the Word.

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.

Thank you!

Thanks and blessings to Tanya Taft who will join the RCIA city-wide team this year. What a wonderful addition you will be! The old team has retired.

News from the Chancery

1) The Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee is offering its next series of online Pastoral Care Outreach Training sessions starting this month. These free sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, starting on September 28 and running until November 30, 2024 (with no session on October 12 for Thanksgiving). This training will allow participants to learn more about deep listening and visiting the lonely, sick, injured, elderly, and dying – in hospitals, seniors' residences, extended health care facilities, and at their homes. The sessions are also offered for those who wish to learn how to accompany and care for their loved ones, friends, and neighbours, or as a personal undertaking. Please register through your parish by September 17, 2024.

2) The 7th annual Beloved Catholic Women's Retreat will be Nov 15-17 2024 at Camp Homewood, Quadra Island. Registration is full but waitlist spots are available. For more information and to add your name to the waitlist, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beloved-catholic-womens-retreat-registration-984148222827>

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. Please 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.

Become a Volunteer Catechist 2024-2025

Grow in and share your faith with children and youth of St Patrick's and Holy Cross parishes. Effective catechists are patient, responsible, confident and creative. You bring a generosity of spirit, respect for diversity and a habit of hospitality and inclusion. We provide you with training in Catholic teaching, Scripture and Tradition to teach students and their families. Complete a [Ministry Volunteer Application Form](#) and submit it to the parish office. For more information contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org. For volunteer screening procedures go to: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

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

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