

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 20, 2025

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, July 19
4PM MASS: Mikey
Rockford (INT)

SUNDAY, July 20
9AM MASS: Jack
Ponsioen+

TUESDAY, July 22
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

THURSDAY, July 24
9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION
7PM MASS

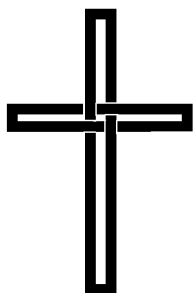
FRIDAY, July 25
7PM MASS

—
CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm
TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION
No scheduled events

LIVESTREAMING
SATURDAY, July 19, 4PM
[https://www.youtube.com/
@StPatricksHolyCross-
Church](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCross-Church)



A surface reading of the Gospel could easily make us feel sorry for Martha. The way Jesus reprimands her in favour of Mary may seem unfair. Today's Gospel is an amendment of the Gospel of the past two Sunday's and highlights the tension at work in disciples. Martha and Mary are not so much two different persons, but two different attitudes that must be present in each of us as disciples of Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we are constantly sent forth to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus and to be artisans of God's dream for humankind. As disciples of Jesus, we are constantly challenged to show our love for God by our love for others. We have come to listen to the Lord, to be fed by Him. I know how difficult it is to find moments of reflection but this much I know to be true: there are lot of Martha among us, but is there enough Mary in us? The extra of Mary keeps Martha healthy! In the end, caring is at the heart of discipleship. Both are serving God, and God knows, we all need both Martha's and Mary's. In being here today, we are Mary. Mary has chosen the better part! This story has often been used to drive a wedge between action and contemplation. It is sometimes suggested that preoccupation with spiritual things is more important than material concerns. While we may admire Mary, we sympathize with Martha, whom we feel is unfairly treated.

If the story triggers these reactions, it may be necessary to look in another direction to discover its true meaning. There is no question about it that both women, Martha, and Mary, receive Jesus as a welcome guest. In all her generosity, Martha placed her house at Jesus' disposal. She is very attentive in perceiving the more immediate needs of Jesus: food, shelter, rest. That is her way of serving. She wanted to make Jesus feel comfortable. If Martha made a mistake at all, it is in the fact that she made the visit more important than the person of the visitor. She did everything possible to show Jesus how good a host she was. In the process, however, she did not do full of justice to her guest, Jesus. She did not have the ability, the openness, if you wish, to allow the roles to be reversed. In a sense, she showed little interest in what her guest had to offer her. And this is particularly important where Jesus is the guest. Martha did not give Jesus the space to become, instead of a guest, the host. She was so preoccupied with serving Jesus, that she did not give him the opportunity to serve her.

In other words, the way Jesus presents himself in this story corresponds perfectly with the favourite description of Jesus by Luke: *"I did not come to be served but to serve."* If there is a point in today's Gospel story, then it is the suggestion that we do not let the hustle and bustle of everyday life become so predominant that it overshadows the need we have to stay in touch with him ...[continued on page 3]

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 at
[RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Sacramental Preparation Classes for Children (7-17 yrs old)

Please attend the 11AM Mass at St Patrick's on Sunday September 14th. A Parent Info Session will follow after mass in the St Ann Library for both Holy Cross and St.Pat's parents. Registration form 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



Baptismal Prep

Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a Baptismal Prep registration form and participate in a Baptismal Prep course. Please note that the next sessions available to take a Baptismal Prep course are Sat, Aug 2 (10:00 am – 12 noon). Please email hcsbp baptismal-prep@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.



Taize Prayer

All are invited to come pray in the style of Taize resumes at 6pm at the Esquimalt United Church, 500 Admirals Road on the following Fridays: September 19, October 17, and November 21. All are welcome to come pray. www.taize.fr

Help Us Build Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford is nearing completion—but rising post-COVID construction costs have left us \$2.8 million short. Father William Hann has written a letter inviting your support. Please take a moment to read it in the emailed bulletin coverletter or in the Narthex. Prayerfully consider helping complete this vital space for worship, learning, and community. Donations can be made at www.buildmychurch.ca. One-time or monthly contributions are welcome. Tax receipts will be issued. Thank you!



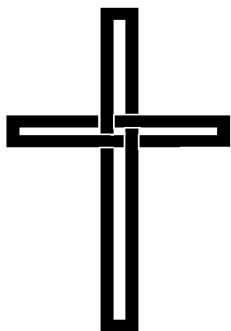
Spring Plenary of the Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod

On June 13, 2025, St. Joseph the Worker Parish hosted the Spring Plenary of the Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod (DPPS). Sixty representatives from across the Diocese gathered in person for a day of prayerful discernment and collaborative discussion.

Attendees included one Listening Circle facilitator from each parish or school; Synod leadership team, clergy and other parish leadership; school principals; members of the Bishop's Advisory Council; the Island Catholic School Board; Diocesan Finance Committee; members of the Diocesan Health Care Committee; Diocesan Liturgical Commission; the Hospital, Campus, and Prison Chaplains; and the Diocesan Ecumenical Officers.

Following this gathering, the Synod leadership team has prepared a 2025 Spring Plenary Report, summarizing the discussions and outcomes of the day. Bishop Gary Gordon has also written a pastoral message reflecting on the importance of this plenary in our ongoing diocesan synodal journey.

Bishop Gary's letter can be read here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-for-the-2025-dpps-spring-plenary> and the Spring Plenary report can be found: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/hubfs/Journeying%20as%20a%20Listening%20Church%20-%20Report%20from%20the%20Spring%20Plenary%20June%2013%202025.pdf>



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Martha and Mary must join together in order to show hospitality to the Lord and have Him always present.

—Saint Teresa of Ávila

The works of an active life pass away with the body, but the joys of the contemplative life rather begin to increase from the end.

—Saint Gregory the Great

The stranger, the guest, may always be an angel and is certainly always mysterious. One never knows who it is. Or rather, for us Christians, we know who it is, because Jesus Christ has told us. The guest is Jesus Christ.

—Jean Daniélou

Job Opportunity: Director of Philanthropy and Communications

The Cridge Centre for the Family, located in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, is seeking a Director of Philanthropy and Communications. Reporting directly to the CEO while overseeing the fundraising and communications team, this role balances both high-level strategy and hands-on execution. This position is integral in developing and implementing a comprehensive fundraising, communication and developmental strategy to align with the organization's mission and long-term goals while also directly managing select initiatives.

Recollections for men and women

Opus Dei's main activity consists in *"offering people the spiritual means they need to live as good Christians in the midst of the world"* (St Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei). One of these activities is a recollection, a time set aside specifically to go deeper into our relationship with God. We spend some time in conversation with Him — guided by meditation and an examination of conscience. A priest of Opus Dei will be available for spiritual direction and/or confession.

- An evening recollection for women will be held on **Monday, July 21st** from **6:15-8pm** at **St Joseph the Worker** parish, 753 Burnside Road West, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:30pm.
- An evening recollection for men will be held on **Tuesday, July 22nd** from **6-8pm** at **Sacred Heart** parish, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria. It will be preceded by Mass at 5:15pm.

[continued from page 1]...who gives us a sense of purpose. For if we stay in touch with our true anchorage, Jesus, then we can genuinely go out to meet the needs of our neighbor and take care of the responsibilities we have. It is easy to lose that focus in our busy lives. Too many things become important that should not be. We need to look at who we are and what we are doing and ask ourselves if we are using our time and energy as God would want us to. Then we may need to adjust accordingly. Saint Teresa of Ávila wrote... Martha and Mary must join together in order to show hospitality to the Lord and have Him always present.

Summer blessings,

Fr. William

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) Please join the Office of the Bishop in welcoming Teresa Kellendonk, who begins her role as Chancellor for the Diocese of Victoria this week. We look forward to her contributions in this vital position.

2) To honour the fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday, July 27, 2025, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Standing Committee for Family and Life has shared a commemorative video. View the video and related materials here: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/family-and-life/grandparents-and-the-elderly/>

A Call for Volunteers

Interested in volunteering, email us at office@holycrossvictoria.org! Check out the open positions:

- ⇒ Liturgical ministry: 2 Gift Bearers (one for the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month - 4pm Mass) and Eucharistic Ministers (Body and Blood)
- ⇒ Social Committee Members
- ⇒ Building Maintenance Coordinator
- ⇒ Parish Council Members



Pastoral Care Telephone Visits

There are times when life may leave us feeling isolated and alone. We may find ourselves home-bound as well. Whatever the circumstances, our Holy Cross Pastoral Care Volunteers are here to accompany us through these times, to offer a listening ear, encouragement and a gentle reminder that we are never alone. If you or a loved one would appreciate a friendly supportive telephone call from a Pastoral Care Volunteer please contact the parish office at 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org.

THANK YOU

To John, Russ, Hans, and Nancy - thank you for keeping our Holy Cross Parish Gardens so beautiful. In these hot summer days your effort to water, prune and maintain our property is much appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!



COLLECTIONS

July 13, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,615.00
Loose	\$ 345.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,307.91
Total	\$3,267.91

CONTACT US

Pastor: Vacant

Executive Team: Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar & David Begg

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

250-477-5321 / office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 / officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Fr. Sean Flynn

250-889-3761

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-3:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Rd Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

www.holycrossvictoria.org

250-477-5321

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9AM

Saturday 4PM

Sunday: 9AM



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 - Tel: 250-479-1331 - Fax: 250-479-5423 - Web: redvictoria.org

July 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On June 13, 2025, the plenary assembly of the Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod (DPPS) gathered in person and online after six months of prayerful reflection, dialogue, and listening to the Holy Spirit. The work of the DPPS is guided by the words of Luke 4:18–21:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”*

The Spring Plenary built on the foundation laid at the fall 2024 meeting, where Listening Facilitators from each parish—together with the Council of Priests and the Bishop’s Advisory Council—discerned the 2025 Listening Circle questions, guided by this first verse:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me.”

In the context of the Jubilee Year of Hope, these Listening Circle experiences became sacred moments of encounter, and the Spirit revealed three confirming graces at the heart of this journey of faith:

- I belong to Christ, and Christ participates in my life.
- There is a deep and consoling joy in encountering Christ—a joy that fosters the gift of trust in the community of the Church.
- This joy inspires a desire to share Christ with others, that all people—especially our families—may know His love in both the joys and sorrows of life.

Time and again, the word that surfaced from these encounters was “welcome.” It is a simple word, yet in the Gospel and in our lives, it becomes a powerful expression of faith. To welcome another is to recognize their dignity, to acknowledge that they belong, and to extend the love we have first received in Christ.

The plenary assembly itself became an experience of this belonging. People shared stories of vulnerability, insight, and grace. They spoke of how listening built trust, and how that trust brought real hope. Many times, we heard this conviction: My voice and my life matter in the Church. I am not alone. Christ is close. The Church/parish/school is my community of connection.



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In Luke 4:18, Jesus reveals not only His mission but our own identity as members of His Body, the Church. He is the Spirit-led, anointed one—and in Him, we too are called and sent. This is the foundation of communion. A communion that is not abstract but lived. It is experienced in the sacraments, in our local communities, in our prayer, and in the small, faithful acts of love that mark our daily lives.

From communion flows participation, and from participation, mission. This mission is rooted in witness to the joy of the Gospel, in bringing what we have received: joy, hope, welcome, and belonging in Christ. We bring Christ Himself, not just ideas—His tenderness in our care, His strength in our solidarity, and His truth in our witness.

As we continue our Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod through the Jubilee Year of Hope and beyond, I invite each of you to return to this question: To whom am I called “to bring” the good news?

To further reflect on this important question, I invite each of you to join a local Listening Circle—to welcome and be welcomed, to build community, and to grow together in faith through prayerful listening and shared hope.

Let us continue to walk on the way together in the Spirit, listening with open hearts and trusting that Christ is indeed close to each of us, and to the Church He so lovingly gathers.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria

Read the full Summary Report from the Spring Plenary here:
<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/hubfs/Journeying%20as%20a%20Listening%20Church%20-%20Re-port%20from%20the%20Spring%20Plenary%20June%202013%202025.pdf>