



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

Christmas 2025

Dear people of the Diocese of Victoria,

Christmas is the feast in which God offers a response and remedy to the fears and anxieties of every age, including our own. It is the feast of hope in the darkness, when the ancient promise is fulfilled once again: *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.”* (Isa 9:2)

How great the darkness can feel today. Our streets and buildings glow with dazzling lights—even our places of worship are adorned with a brightness meant to lift the spirit. Yet so often these lights are only passing distractions, brief attempts to soothe the heart and mind amid the turmoil of fear. We know there are reasonable, practical responses to the darkness of our time, but human solutions alone rarely reach the deeper places of vulnerability and fragility in our earthly journey. One wonders: would the Magi themselves have been able to find and follow the star if its gentle glow were competing with the flashes of bombs or the glare of spotlights?

And yet, Christmas comes. It returns each year with the still, small light of a star and the quiet voice of our God. In the warm glow of a humble stable, we hear again the divine message: “I love you.” “I am with you.”

Perhaps this Christmas is an invitation to seek something more than temporary relief from fear and anguish; an invitation not to distraction, but to encounter. For in the single greatest gift God gives us—His Son, Jesus—we receive a peace “not as the world gives,” and the tender assurance that God listens with the attentive heart of a newborn child.

Jesus’ birth is that still, small light of truth and life, revealing the Way of peace and justice through the seeming weakness of infancy and the homelessness of a young couple giving birth to their firstborn child and laying him in a manger—a humble place where “we came to know him in the smallness of a child laid in a manger.” (*Dilexi te*, (2025), 16) In Him, God shows us the path of listening with open hearts and of good will toward all, with “the preferential choice for the poor [that] is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry.” (*Dilexi te*, (2025), 7)

Come let us adore Him.

Come let us listen to the poor and humble Jesus.

Come let us listen to the Creator’s plan for peace.

My prayer for you and your families this Christmas is that the light of Christ will calm your fears, renew your hope, and guide your steps as we journey together in faith.

Christmas blessings, and the peace of Christ be with you in the New Year.

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria

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HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

CHRISTMAS DAY

Pastoral Admin Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is one of the greatest celebrations of the liturgical year. No words can truly express the miracle of that holy night, when two thousand years ago the 13.8-billion-year history of the universe was changed by the birth of a tiny baby. We celebrate this phenomenal event every year, trying to grasp a little more deeply the significance of the Incarnation. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the stable, the angels and the shepherds, the kings and the star. We remember the holy night with wonder and gratitude when God touched the universe and spoke his word of love. Nothing was ever the same.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only-begotten son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Rejoice, our Lord has come, Tanya



Prayer in the Style of Taizé

The ecumenical practice of Taizé will be practiced at Holy Cross Church for three months in the new year. It is observed on the third Friday of each month at 6:00 pm. Please make a note of the dates, January 16th, February 20th and March 20th of 2026. There will be scripture, music, prayer and silence. Everyone is welcome to this evening of prayer.

Pastoral Care Telephone Visits

Are you feeling lonely or know someone who would appreciate a friendly conversation? Our Pastoral Care volunteers are available to telephone those who are lonely, homebound, isolated, or simply in need of a listening ear. These calls are a gentle reminder that no one is ever alone and that our parish community is here to accompany, encourage, and support one another. To request a telephone call for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office at 250-477-5321 or email:

office@holycrossvictoria.org.

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321

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4049 Gordon Head Rd

Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

www.holycrossvictoria.org

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Saturday-Monday: closed

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

CONTACT US

Pastoral Administrator: Tanya Taft

ttaft@rcdvictoria.org

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

office@holycrossvictoria.org

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake

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Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn / 250-889-3761

Pastor: Position not filled at this time