

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 15, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, February 14

4PM MASS:

Frances Coughlan+

SUNDAY, February 15

9AM MASS:

Laverne Reid+

TUESDAY, February 17

9AM MASS:

Carolyn Matlock+

WEDNESDAY,

February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

7PM MASS

THURSDAY, February 19

9AM MASS: Ranjith+,

Mercy+ & Nicholas+

FRIDAY, February 20

9AM MASS:

David Haynes+

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

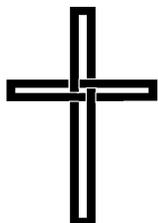
No Scheduled Events

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY,

February 14, 4PM

<https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>



Today's Gospel is part of a longer scripture passage which began two Sundays ago with The Beatitudes. The full scripture passage called 'The Sermon on the Mount' includes all of Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Gospel of Matthew.

In today's Gospel, Matthew 5. 17-34, Jesus tells the people that he has come to fulfill, to bring to completion, the Mosaic Law and the Prophets. His teachings and interpretations of the law and the prophets are not a contradiction but a fulfillment. Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophets; he is the long-awaited and promised Messiah that the prophets had spoken about. Jesus taught the people about the Law of Moses by using a few of the Commandments to bring the people to a deeper more fruitful understanding and way of living; living in the Spirit. He was inviting them not to be content to just stay on the surface of the law by simple, if diligent, adherence or obedience to the law. He did not want the people to be only legalistic followers to the law. That did not lead to life. He wanted them to see the love in the law, to see it as a way of life rooted in relationship with him. Using the law which says "You shall not murder" Jesus helped the people to see that at its core this law meant that they were to respect everyone, to break down barriers that divided, to treat people with compassion and dignity, to help them to see that they mattered, to bring healing and to apply the same respect and dignity to themselves. When they avoided murder, they partially fulfilled the law. When they loved, they fulfilled it. By using several other laws Jesus continued to help the people to see the love of God in all laws.

What does this Gospel mean for us in our everyday, individual lives and in our lives in a world in 'rupture'. Pope Leo XIV has said that all Scripture, "is intended to speak to today's believers, to touch their present lives with their problems, to enlighten the steps to be taken and the decisions to be made ... under the guidance of the same Spirit who inspired them." Today's gospel does just that. It turns conventional, worldly wisdom and ways of behaving upside down. It calls us to go beyond mere legalism, to think about our values, priorities, law and ethics in light of Jesus' leadings. It calls us to seek a deeper, transformative understanding which brings God's life and love to the law, not punishment and retribution. God gives us grace and wisdom as he walks with us to enlighten our hearts and minds for us to know truth, to act with justice and to live in his steadfast love. Peace and hope surround us in our lives and in our world. As Richard Rohr suggests, this Gospel is a "blueprint for a new world".

Sitting in prayerful pondering with chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Matthew can only bring us closer to being the light of the world that Jesus said we are and to our becoming the sanctified saints in Jesus that we are intended to be. 'How good can it get!'

Trudy Holden

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

From the Pastor's Desk

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings of peace and love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians:

"I have become all things to all people, so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, so that I may share in its blessings" (1 Cor 9:22–23).

I truly believe that these words of St. Paul describe the very reason the Lord has called me to serve among you as your new pastor. With gratitude and humility, I come to walk with you, to listen to you, and to journey together in faith, hope, and love. I thank you sincerely for your warm welcome and open hearts.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself.

My name is Fr. Silvichan Dominic, and many call me Fr. Silvan. I was born on April 27, 1979, in the state of Kerala, India, and I was ordained a priest on April 5, 2008. I came to Canada in 2013 and have been blessed to serve in three parishes in Edmonton, Alberta, including five years as pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Leduc.

From 2021 until February 2026, I served the Margaree Family of Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Antigonish, Cape Breton. As part of the new mission efforts of my religious congregation, I have now been entrusted to the Diocese of Victoria, and I am grateful to be among you today.

My parents, MD Dominic and Mary, are farmers. I am the youngest in my family, and I have one brother and one sister, both married and settled in Kerala, India. My family taught me the values of faith, hard work, and trust in God, gifts I carry with me into my priestly ministry.

I belong to a religious congregation known as the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC), a Congregation of Pontifical Right. Our congregation was founded in 1857 in Italy by Blessed Luigi Maria Monti, who began small communities dedicated to serving the sick, especially the poor and the abandoned. Over time, the mission expanded to include orphanages, schools, and healthcare ministries.

Today, the CFIC is present in over twenty countries, serving through hospitals, schools, shelters, leper colonies, centers for the mentally ill, and ministries for homeless families, street children, and the marginalized. As members of this congregation, we profess the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. We own nothing personally except our complete trust in God, and whatever we receive is shared for the mission of the Church throughout the world.

Here in North America, our congregation serves parishes in Canada—including Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Antigonish as well as in Columbus, Ohio; St. Paul, Minnesota; Florida; and Mérida, Mexico.

Dear friends, I come to you not with eloquence or human wisdom, but with a heart that desires to serve. As St. Paul says in his letter to 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 our faith does not rest on human strength, but on the power of God. Together, if we remain rooted in Christ, the Lord will do great things among us.

St. Teresa of Calcutta once beautifully said:

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

May this spirit guide our life together as a parish family.

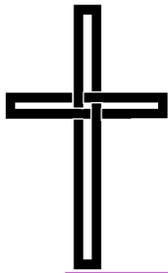
I ask for your prayers, your patience, and your support, and I promise you my prayers and my wholehearted service. May we walk together as joyful disciples of Christ, building a community rooted in faith, compassion, and love.

May God bless you all abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

Your pastor,

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today.

Pope Leo XIV (from *Dilexi Te*)



Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

SEJC invites parishioners to bring nonperishable protein items and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. Donations can still be dropped off throughout the month. In consecutive months, on the 1st Saturday and Sunday, requests for new items will be made in the bulletin and included in the announcements at the Masses. Thank you for your generosity!

KAIROS Blanket Exercise

In the spirit of Lent and Truth and Reconciliation, the CWL of Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting a KAIROS Blanket Exercise in their Parish Hall on Saturday March 7 from 9:30-12noon. The blanket exercise is a powerful interactive and experiential activity that walks people through 500 years of historic and current relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada. Please join us for this educational exercise guided by trained facilitators. After a coffee and goodies break, we will conclude with a debriefing, conducted as a “talking circle”. If you have any questions, contact Margie Noonan at margielnoonan@gmail.com or 250-589-6313.



Dying to Meet You: Preventing Euthanasia, Encouraging Hope.

On Friday, March 6, 2026, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm Amanda Achtman will be coming to Holy Cross Parish Hall (Victoria) to give a talk on her project Dying to Meet You: Preventing Euthanasia, Encouraging Hope. As the Ethics Education & Cultural Engagement Lead for Canadian Physicians for Life, and the founder of Dying to Meet You, Amanda will explore questions around death and dying through storytelling, beauty, and a deeply hopeful vision rooted in the dignity of the human person. There are sign up sheets in the entrance foyer. Please sign up so that we can make sure there are enough chairs set up in the hall and enough snacks provided. The Diocese of Victoria is seeking input in advance of the Dying to Meet You tour: <https://forms.gle/8QRGCnUcGMQcyvKo9>

Coldest Night of the Year Walk - Feb 28

On February 28, together with thousands of Canadians across the country, some Holy Cross Parishioners will be walking and fundraising to support people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the Victoria community. We would really appreciate your support in helping others that are in need in Victoria. Please consider joining our Holy Cross Team and walk with us, or maybe you would rather support the team by donating to this worthy cause. Either way you are invited to join the team or donate by going to the following link <https://cnoy.w-ith.me/HolyCrossParish-Victoria>



Candlelight Ecumenical Prayer Coming Soon

Due to unfortunate circumstances Holy Cross has postponed the Feb. 20th and March 20th Taizé prayer evenings. We look forward to announcing dates for Candlelight Ecumenical Prayer Evenings coming soon to Holy Cross Parish.



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) The Correctional Service Canada (CSC) Bridges of Canada Inc. is hiring a full-time Correctional Chaplain in the Pacific Region for 125-165 hours per month (subject to change based on monthly requirements). The Correctional Chaplain will be responsible for providing religious and spiritual services to federal offenders of all faiths residing in William Head Institution. Find the full job description here:

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

2) The Diocese of Victoria is offering a two-day marriage preparation course over Zoom on April 17 from 7 pm–10 pm and April 18 from 9 am–4 pm. Open to all, this course provides essential guidance for couples preparing for marriage. A joint Certificate of Completion will be issued upon completion of both sessions. Please register by April 2 here: <https://zoom-spring-2026-marriage-prep.eventbrite.ca>

3) The Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued a statement strongly supporting Private Member's Bill C-218, which seeks to prevent persons whose sole medical condition is mental illness from accessing euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide ("MAiD"). Please find the full statement here: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/cccb-statement-on-bill-c-218-no-maid-for-mental-illness/>

Pastoral Care Home Visits

Would you or someone you love benefit from a friendly visit? Our Pastoral Care Ministry offers in-person visits to those living at homes, in care facilities, or in hospitals. These visits provide the comfort of companionship, a listening ear, and the ministry of presence, bringing warmth and encouragement to those who may be feeling alone or disconnected. When requested, Holy Communion and time for prayer can be included as part of the visit. To arrange a visit, please call 250-477-5321 or email: office@holycrossvictoria.org.

COLLECTIONS

February 8, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,140.00
Loose	\$ 332.00
SEJC	\$ 445.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$4,279.91

THANK YOU

Today we want to recognize two ministries in our church community who have contributed beautiful and needed services. First, thank you to the Liturgy of the Word team. For eight months this team of seven people led Liturgy of the Word with Communion every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We were able to gather, hear the Word of God, receive communion and share our faith and prayers. It was such a blessing! Secondly, thank you to the amazing Edgelow Team that cleared out the crawl space, sorted through furniture and dishes, washed pots, pans and dishes, identified and purchased household items, gratefully welcomed furniture donations from parishioners, pruned bushes and cut grass and together prepared a comfortable and welcoming home for our new Pastor. Father Silvan is very grateful! Well done, Edgelow Team!

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321

office@holycrossvictoria.org

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

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

See front page for daily Mass.

CONTACT US

Pastor: Father Silvichan Dominic CFIC

sdominic@rcdvictoria.org

Pastoral Assistant: Tanya Taft

ttaft@rcdvictoria.org

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office@holycrossvictoria.org

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake

officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

UVic & Camosun Chaplain: Father David Shulist SJ

dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

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



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: rcdvictoria.org

February 11, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our hearts are heavy as we hold in prayer all those affected by the violence in Tumbler Ridge. We pray especially for those who have lost their lives, for their families who are grieving, for those who have been hurt, and all the people of Tumbler Ridge.

May the Lord grant eternal rest to those who have died, healing to the injured, and comfort and strength to all who mourn.

We lift up the students, families, educators, first responders, and all who call Tumbler Ridge home, asking God to surround them with His peace and protection in the days ahead.

In this time of tragedy and suffering, we turn to Christ, our refuge and hope. May His light shine in the darkness and His presence bring consolation to every wounded heart.

We invite all the faithful across Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands to join in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Tumbler Ridge.

“O Lord, be near to the brokenhearted and save those who are crushed in spirit.”
(Psalm 34:18)

In heartfelt sorrow and hope in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Gordon". To the left of the signature is a small black cross symbol.

Most Reverend Gary Gordon

Horizons of Hope: Holy Cross Parish's Winter 2026 Series

As Catholics, our faith in Jesus Christ has much to teach us about living well until we pass on to eternal life. Do you want to know more about what a “palliative care approach” means?

A parishioner may be interested in the topic because:

- A person or a loved one has been recently diagnosed with a chronic or life-threatening illness.
- Caregivers and/or family members:
 - may wonder about their decisions regarding the care of a person who has recently died
 - are grieving the death of a loved one and are seeking a supportive community that they can learn with
 - are trying to discern their gifts to accompany, care for, and support caregivers and the person who is ill.
- A person may want to:
 - understand how palliative care is different from Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)
 - understand the Church's teaching on end-of-life care questions.
- A person may simply want to learn more about palliative care.

The Holy Cross Facilitators invite you to participate in four learning sessions on *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care*. The program will help parishioners, caregivers, and family members who may be facing a terminal illness to learn more about palliative care. Throughout the four modules the learning and discussion sessions address themes such as:

- understanding the dying process,
- discernment and decision-making as we prepare to pass on to eternal life
- accompaniment, and
- the importance of building Compassionate Communities.

The four-module program will take place Wednesday March 4, 11, 18 and 25, here at Holy Cross. The sessions will take place in the afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00 (the last session will run from 1:00 – 3:30). To register, call or email the parish office (250-477-5321 / office@holycrossvictoria.org) by February 27th. Please provide your name, email address, and phone number.