

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 15, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 14

4PM MASS:

Members of the Henry
Family+

SUNDAY, March 15

9AM MASS:

Peggy Hughes+

MONDAY, March 16

9AM MASS

TUESDAY, March 17

9AM MASS

WEDNESDAY, March 18

5:30-6:30PM ADORATION

6:30PM MASS

THURSDAY, March 19

9AM MASS: John Pigott+

FRIDAY, March 20

9AM MASS

**9:30AM THE WAY OF THE
CROSS**

—

CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI

8:30 AM - 9 AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 - 6:30 PM

SATURDAYS

3:30PM - 4 PM

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY

March 14, 4PM

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

[@StPatricksHolyCross-
Church](https://www.youtube.com/@StPatricksHolyCross-Church)

In today's gospel we see the beggar, blind from birth, in every scene. It begins when he hears the disciples seeking truth ask Jesus who had sinned to cause the man's blindness, his parents or the man. He heard Jesus' answer. "Neither", said Jesus – for in man's weakness and suffering God's love, solidarity, compassion, mercy and glory are shown and poured forth.

The blind man was shocked by Jesus' answer. He was even more confused when Jesus stopped, sat close to him and started to talk to him in a warm, caring way, something others were afraid to do. He knew he was safe as he felt Jesus' kind hands gently anoint his eyes with saliva-mud and tell him to go wash in the pool. He immediately obeyed Jesus, no questions asked. The man came back able to see. His was a baptism of encounter with Jesus, a baptism of seeing. It was not a 'once and is done'; his life in darkness became a life of light in Jesus.

The now-seeing man was bewildered as he listened to disagreement and division break out among his neighbours - yes, it was the blind man healed; no, it was just someone like him. The healed man kept saying, "I am the man who was healed." But the arguments continued and people refused to believe even when truth stood in front of them!

So fierce became the arguments and dissension that the healed man was brought in front of the pharisees who questioned him and brought his parents in for questioning. The arrogant, power hungry and status driven leaders had threatened and intimidated the community. Anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out – ostracized. Afraid, the man's parents distanced themselves from their son. The leaders told the man he was entirely in sin and drove him out. But the now-seeing man with courage and faith spoke the truth. He told them it was the man named Jesus who had healed him. "Jesus is a prophet," he said. Then in an eloquence betrayed only by his beggar look the man professed Jesus,

"We know that God ... listens to one who worships him and obeys his will.

Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man weren't from God, he could do nothing."

Jesus knew the wretched treatment the man had received from his community and leaders and he looked for the man. Jesus sought him out and revealed himself to this lowly, ostracised, judged and reviled beggar. I am the 'Son of Man' Jesus told him. The man who could now see said, "Lord I believe." And he worshipped Jesus. And he walked with Jesus.

What does this gospel reading mean for us today? Our lives can be like the life of the blind-seeing man. We have times of strife and disagreement, tenuous and broken relationships, places where truth is clouded or denied. We witness arrogance and unchecked power, threats and intimidation, oppression and wars. In all of life Jesus draws near to us, he sits beside us, he reveals his heart of love to us and he meets us in prayer. He guides us to seek and speak the truth, to listen honestly to what others have to say; as Pope Francis said to build bridges and communities united in diversity. At all times and especially those times when we feel powerless, 'what can we do about it' attitude, God sets in our heart prayer, prayer for all people and for everything. He invites us to pour our hearts out to him in worded and wordless prayer, to listen to him and to allow prayer to become our constant way of living. Then it is that our hearts are at rest.

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, greetings of peace and love in the name of Jesus Christ,

There will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 20 at 7:00 PM. I warmly encourage you to come and participate in this beautiful celebration of God's mercy.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not meant to make us feel guilty, nor is it a moment of condemnation. Rather, it is a grace-filled encounter with God's mercy that brings peace to our hearts. Through this sacrament, we are reconciled with God, with one another, and even with our own selves.

We do not go to confession because we are bad people. We go because we desire to grow in holiness. God created us good, as the Book of Genesis reminds us, and that goodness remains within us. Yet the Christian life calls us beyond simply being good; we are called to be holy.

May this season of Lent be a time for us to open our hearts to God's mercy and allow His grace to renew us.

God bless you all,

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



Social & Ecological Justice Ministry Project: UVIC Food Insecurity

SEJC invites parishioners to bring pasta/ rice, sauces this month (teriyaki, soya, chilli, curry, hot) & healthy snacks (granola bars, dried fruits, nuts etc.) and place them in the collection bins in the foyer. Donations can still be dropped off throughout the month.

Holy Cross Parish's Easter and Holy Week Mass Schedule

- April 2nd - Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 pm
- April 3rd - Stations of the Cross 11:00 am
- April 3rd - Good Friday Service 3:00 pm
- April 4th - Easter Vigil 8:00 pm
- April 5th - Easter Sunday Mass 9:00 am
- April 5th - Easter Sunday Mass 11:00 am



A Letter from the CCCB on the Conflicts in Iran

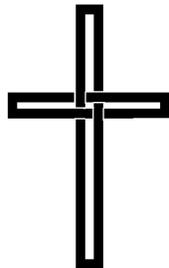
The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement inviting the faithful to pray for peace in the Middle East. A copy of the statement is attached; for more information, or to read the statement online, please visit: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/statement-calling-for-prayer-for-peace-in-the-middle-east/>

Lent Reconciliation Service

The Holy Cross Parish Reconciliation Service will be on Friday, March 20th at 7:00 pm in the church. The Reconciliation Service will be followed by the opportunity for individual, private confession. Listed below are all the Reconciliation Service options in Victoria during Lent.

- St. Patrick's Parish, Tuesday, March 17th at 7pm
- Holy Cross Parish, Friday, March 20th at 7pm
- St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Tuesday, March 24th, at 7 pm





QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God. *-Teresa of Avila*

Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts. *-Mother Teresa*

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart. *-Mahatma Gandhi*

Do you Work or Study on the UVic campus?

Father David Shulist, our UVic Catholic Chaplain, celebrates mass a number of times during the week at the Multifaith Centre. If you are a student, an employee of the university or visiting the campus, you are very welcome. The masses are on Tuesday at 4:10 pm, Thursday at 11:30 am and Saturday at 4:00 pm. On the last Saturday of the month, the 4:00 pm mass is celebrated by Father David at Holy Cross Parish.



Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger Memorial Bursary Program

Catholic students in British Columbia are invited to apply for the Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger Memorial Bursary Program, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus B.C. Charity Foundation. Fourteen bursaries of \$1,000 are available to Catholic students under 25 who plan to attend a recognized post-secondary institution in B.C. and demonstrate financial need. Students must request an application package by June 1, 2026, and completed applications must be submitted by June 30, 2026. To request an application, students should contact Jim Williams at jimw.kofc@gmail.com.



VICTORIA DIOCESAN BURSARY IN MEMORY OF FREDA SMITH

The Victoria Diocesan CWL Council is offering a \$750 bursary to a Catholic graduating high school student within the Diocese of Victoria. This bursary will be awarded to a student proceeding on to a form of higher education. Criteria and applications are on the website: <https://cwldov.org/application>
The deadline for applications is March 31, 2026.

Development and Peace – Share Lent 2026: On Track for Justice

Integrity, solidarity, and the preferential option for the poor are the heart of the work of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. For 60 years D&P has walked with communities in the Global South to promote justice, peace, and dignity. In Brazil, rural life is disrupted by industrial agriculture, mining, and the Carajás railway, which severely degrade the air, water, and soil. Courageously, women who are committed to sustaining their families on their land have formed an association called Seeds of the Earth with the support of Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT), a partner of D&P. Learn about their work in our Mini-magazine and watch testimonies from Seeds of the Earth members at devp.org/lent.

Solidarity Sunday, coming on March 22, 2026, is an opportunity to support Development and Peace – Caritas Canada in its work with the poorest and most marginalized of our human family. Bishop Gary has written a letter to the people of the Diocese of Victoria, encouraging all to embody Christ's love through generosity and solidarity. To read Bishop Gary's letter, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-for-share-lent-2026>



NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) Amanda Achtman's "Dying to Meet You: A Tour of Hope" has now concluded. Recordings of two of the tour events are available online:

- March 4 - Panel Discussion at St. Andrew's Cathedral: <https://www.youtu.be/iVikLLvefLo>
- March 5 - Presentation at St. Patrick's Victoria: Part 1: <https://youtu.be/uwjtbP-U214> & Part 2: <https://youtu.be/DRYZ3k6XjBU>

2) Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of the Chrism Mass on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 pm. At this yearly liturgy, sacred oils are blessed and given to representatives from each parish in the diocese. These will be presented in each church on Holy Thursday and used during the coming year for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria (740 View Street), and also livestreamed at https://youtube.com/live/4CstVRsmU_A

3) New videos are now available in the Journey through Lent video series. This series was designed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to help the faithful prepare for the Church's celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. To view the videos, please visit: www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/

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

March 8, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,327.00
Loose	\$ 375.00
Anawim	\$ 415.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$4,479.91

Thank You

Today we express our gratitude to three groups of people. First, thank you to all the parishioners and university students who came to Amanada Achtman's talk last Friday evening on Preventing Euthanasia. Though a difficult subject, it engendered conversation which was worthwhile. Second, thank you to the many parishioners and students who washed the dishes, cleaned up the kitchen, and set up the hall that Friday evening for the next day's event. Your help was so appreciated! Third, thank you to the hospitality team that hosted the reception after John Pigott's funeral on Saturday, and to the impromptu hospitality team who hosted the reception on Tuesday after the funeral for Madeleine Cranston. Our Holy community is so grateful to these hospitality teams who donate time, effort, and comfort to everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

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 times.

CONTACT US

Pastor: Father Silvichan Dominic CFIC

sdominic@rcdvictoria.org

Pastoral Assistant: Tanya Taft

ttaft@rcdvictoria.org

Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord

office@holycrossvictoria.org

Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake

officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

UVic & Camosun Chaplin: 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: redvictoria.org

March 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lent is a sacred season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time when we are invited to deepen our faith and live out Christ's call to love our neighbour, especially those who are poor, marginalized, and suffering. During this holy season, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, invites us to participate in its annual Share Lent campaign, *On Track for Justice*.

This year's campaign highlights the courageous efforts of communities in Brazil who are working to protect their homes, their health, and their dignity in the face of environmental harm and economic injustice. With the support of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada and its partner, Justiça nos Trilhos, families affected by pollution and displacement have been able to organize, advocate for their rights, and build safer, healthier futures for their children. Their witness reminds us that solidarity is not simply an idea, but a commitment to walk alongside others in their struggle for justice.

As Pope Leo and our bishops have continually reminded us, our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of every human person and to stand with those most in need. By supporting Share Lent, we put this teaching into action and participate in the Church's mission of justice, peace, and compassion throughout the world.

I encourage you to support the Share Lent campaign by learning more about its work, praying for its partners, and giving generously, especially on Solidarity Sunday, March 22, 2026. Your generosity will help sustain vital projects that empower vulnerable communities and promote lasting justice.

May this Lenten season be a time of renewal for each of us, as we grow in faith, hope, and love through acts of generosity and solidarity, and may God bless you and your families.

In Communion and Hope,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria