

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, March 7

10AM FUNERAL MASS:

John Pigott+

4PM MASS:

Cortney Quin+

SUNDAY, March 8

9AM MASS:

Joseph De Sousa+

MONDAY, March 9

9AM MASS: Gord Hague+

TUESDAY, March 10

2PM FUNERAL MASS:

Madeleine Cranston+

WEDNESDAY, March 11

6:30PM MASS

THURSDAY, March 12

9AM MASS: John Pigott+

FRIDAY, March 13

9AM MASS

9:30AM THE WAY OF THE
CROSS

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CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

MON, THURS, FRI

8:30 AM - 9 AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 - 6:30PM

SATURDAYS

3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING

SUNDAY

March 8, 11AM

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

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

From Ignorance to Enlightenment: The Woman at the Well

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is the most intense "catechesis" in the Gospel. In a carefully orchestrated seven-part dialogue, Jesus guides her and us step-by-step from confusion to a clear understanding of who He is.

The Strategy of Grace

When Jesus got personal by asking about her five husbands, the woman cleverly tried to "talk religion" to change the subject. We often do the same, hiding behind rituals to avoid the gaze of Christ. But Jesus persisted. He didn't want to embarrass her; He wanted to free her.

What is "Living Water"? Scholars like Raymond E. Brown suggest two profound meanings for the "Living Water" Jesus offers:

- The Revelation: The life-giving teaching and truth Jesus brings.
- The Spirit: The gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed through Baptism, the true source of life.

The Stages of Faith

Notice the woman's progression. She does not recognize Him all at once. Her faith grows in stages:

1. A Jew: A stranger from a rival group.
2. Sir/Lord: A title of respect.
3. Prophet: Someone who sees her soul.
4. The Messiah: The Savior she has been waiting for.

A Witness to the World

Unlike Nicodemus, who remained hesitant, or the crowds who demanded proofs, this marginalized woman became a bold witness. Her testimony was so powerful that her entire town came to believe not just because of her word, but because they eventually "heard for themselves."

Our Call to Witness

The Samaritan woman's invitation "Come and see" is now our mission. We are called to:

- Be Jesus for others: Especially in "unexpected" places for "unwanted" people.
- Stand for Truth: To have the courage of our Christian convictions in daily life for the sake of justice.
- Be Renewed: To return daily to the Well of Christ to be cleansed and satisfied by His great gift.

A Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the Font of Living Water. We thank You for the gentle way You enter our personal lives, moving us from ignorance to enlightenment. Give us the courage of the Samaritan woman to leave our jars behind, to stand for truth, and to invite others to "come and see" the Savior of the world. Amen.

Fr. Silvichan Dominic CIFC

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.rcd.victoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)
or call 1-800-968-3146.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

From the Pastor's Desk

My dear people, As we move through the month of March, I find myself reflecting on the beautiful ceremony of my installation as your pastor. Seeing Catherine Davis and Jim MacAulay standing at my side was a moment I will always cherish. They represented all of you, proclaiming that you are walking with me—supporting, encouraging, and praying for me as we serve the Lord together.

I am reminded of the profound words of St. Teresa of Calcutta:

"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do wonderful things."

To do these "wonderful things," we must first be nourished by the source of all strength. I am happy to share that we now have regular weekday Mass and Confession available.

I warmly invite those of you who are able to join us for these celebrations. Coming together during the week allows us to experience the Lord in a profound and constant way, grounding our busy lives in His peace and mercy. Whether it is through the healing of the Confessional or the nourishment of the Eucharist, these moments are where our "togetherness" is truly sanctified.

As we honor St. Joseph this month—a man of quiet strength and constant presence—let us follow his example by making more room for God in our daily schedules. I look forward to seeing you at the altar.

With gratitude and prayers,

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village

On Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Oak Bay United Church at 1355 Mitchell St., Oak Bay, will host Kathi Camilleri's *Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village*, an experiential workshop exploring the values that sustained Indigenous communities for generations and the impacts of Residential Schools & Canada's assimilation policies. Cost: \$30 Cash/Cheque or e-transfer (includes lunch & refreshments). To register: email felicite.stairs@gmail.com or phone 250-598-5021.

A Letter from the CCCB on the Conflicts in Iran

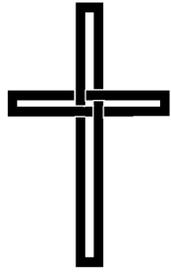
The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement inviting the faithful to pray for peace in the Middle East. A copy of the statement is attached; for more information, or to read the statement online, please visit: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/statement-calling-for-prayer-for-peace-in-the-middle-east/>

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

You must try to pray so that, in your prayer, you open yourself in such a way that some-time – perhaps not today, but sometime – you are able to hear God say to you, “I love you!” These words, addressed to you by God, are the most important words you will ever hear because, before you hear them, nothing is ever completely right with you, but after you hear them, something will be right in your life at a very deep level.

- Ron Rolheiser OMI



Patrick's Day Irish Dinner Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus from St. Patrick's Church will be selling tickets after mass for their annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Dinner. The proceeds will be going towards the church roof repair of St Patrick's Parish.

World Day of Prayer

A gathering on Tuesday March 10th at 1:00pm at Broad View United. This year, we are learning and praying for Women & Children in Nigeria. Please join us for learning and praying for Nigeria. A poster with more information is on the Bulletin Board in the Foyer.

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.



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



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.

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



**Development
and Peace**
CARITAS CANADA

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. For women throughout the world, that their dignity may be respected, their rights upheld, and the discrimination they so often endure come to an end, let us pray to the Lord.

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1) Would you like to help restore an important Garry Oak ecosystem? Beginning on March 8, and running every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 1–4 pm, all are invited to come rain or shine and help remove invasive species from our property on the slopes of Christmas Hill. Please meet in the Sacred Heart parking lot (4044 Nelthope Street, Victoria). For more information and to sign up, email jseale1234@gmail.com or visit <https://garry-oak-ecosystem-restoration-2026.eventbrite.ca>

2) All are invited to participate in an online “*Conversation in the Spirit*” on Saturday, March 21 from 10:30 – 11:45 am. In this safe, respectful, and non-judgmental session, we will be exploring questions about **how** to bring the Good News to our communities. Our thoughts will help Bishop Gary and other leadership discern and direct the future of our diocese. If you would like to have your voice heard, please register by noon on March 20 at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/cits>

3) Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford invites qualified early-learning and childcare operators to submit proposals for a long-term lease agreement to operate a licensed childcare facility on parish property. The deadline for proposals is March 31, 2026 at 4:00 pm PST. For more information, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>.

4) This week’s 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: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-lent/>

5) Lenten Prayer in the style of Taize will be held on Friday, March 20 at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph the Worker in Victoria (753 Burnside Road West). Stations of the Cross will follow at 7:00 pm. Everyone welcome.

COLLECTIONS

March 1, 2025

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,715.00
Loose	\$ 465.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$4,542.91

Thank You

After many years of compassionate and faithful service helping families plan funeral and memorial masses, Anna Mendonca and Julia Vlaszaty have stepped down from this special work. Not only did Anna and Julia help with the planning of these masses, but they were present at the funeral and memorial masses to ensure that everything was set up and in its place. They helped the members of the family be comfortable with the ritual and showed them where to find all of the required items. Holy Cross Parish is indebted to these two women for the countless hours of care and assistance during one of the most challenging times in people’s lives. Thank you Anna and Julia!

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

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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

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UVic & Camosun Chaplin: Father David Shulist SJ

dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

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