

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, May 2

4PM MASS:

Pro Populo

SUNDAY, May 3

9AM MASS:

Madeleine & Peter
Cranston+

TUESDAY, May 5

9AM MASS:

Janet Tomlinson+

WEDNESDAY, May 6

5:30PM-6:30PM

ADORATION

6:30PM MASS:

Pauline Brannigan
Intentions

THURSDAY, May 7

9AM MASS:

Keith Middleton+

FRIDAY, May 8

9AM MASS:

Seamus O'Connor+

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CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4PM

TUES, THURS & FRI

8:30AM - 9AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

LIVESTREAMING

SUNDAY

May 3, 11:00am

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

The Gospel today brings us into a deeply emotional moment. Jesus is speaking to His disciples just before His passion. Their world is beginning to collapse. He has spoken of betrayal, denial, and departure. Fear and confusion fill their hearts. And into that fear, Jesus speaks words that still echo across every generation:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

This is not just a statement. It is a promise. It is a reassurance. It is an invitation. We know what it feels like to be troubled—when plans fall apart, when relationships strain, when faith feels uncertain. The disciples felt the same. They needed direction. They needed hope. They needed someone to hold on to. And it is Thomas—honest, direct, and very human—who gives voice to that confusion: **“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”** That question is our question too. And Jesus does not give a map. He gives Himself. **“I am the Way.”** He does not simply show us a path; He walks with us. Faith is not about figuring everything out—it is about following a person.

There’s a story of a sign outside a funeral parlor that read: *“Why walk around half dead when we can bury you for fifty dollars?”* It’s humorous, but it carries a serious truth. Many people live half-alive—without purpose, without hope, without direction. Jesus does not want half-living disciples. He calls us to a full, alive relationship with Him. **“I am the Truth.”** In a world full of opinions and shifting ideas, Jesus does not say, **“I will teach you the truth.”** He says, **“I am the Truth.”** Philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle searched for truth. Jesus claims to be truth itself. That is the difference.

“I am the Life.” Not just biological existence, but a life filled with meaning, purpose, and eternal hope. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great Christian witness who died during World War II, said before his death, **“This is the beginning of a new life.”** He could say that because he knew where he was going—and more importantly, **Whom he was following.** That is the heart of today’s Gospel. Life can feel like traveling through unfamiliar territory. Without a guide, it is confusing and even frightening. But Jesus assures us: **“I will not leave you orphaned. I go to prepare a place for you.”** He does not remove every difficulty, but He gives us something greater—His presence.

So, the question for us today is simple and direct: Are we trying to find our own way, or are we following Him?

Thomas à Kempis once wrote:

“Without the Way, there is no going.

Without the Truth, there is no knowing.

Without the Life, there is no living.”

If we stay close to Christ, our hearts need not be troubled. Even in uncertainty, we can walk with confidence—not because we know everything, but because we know Him.

So today we pray with the Psalmist:

“Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.”

And we trust that the One who is the Way will lead us,

the One, who is the Truth, will guide us,

and the One who is the Life will sustain us—

until He brings us home.

Fr Silvichan Dominic

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 people in Christ, Greetings of peace and love in the name of the Risen Lord.

I hope you are all doing well. Please be assured of my prayers for each one of you. I had a wonderful birthday, thank you very much for your kind wishes and prayers. I am truly grateful for your love and support.

We have now entered the month of May, a month specially dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. She is a beautiful model of faith, humility, and obedience for all of us to follow. In every moment of her life, she trusted in God's plan, even when it was not easy.

Let us turn to her with confidence and seek her loving intercession. May she guide us closer to her Son, Jesus, and help us grow in faith, hope, and love.

I encourage all families to take time this month to pray the Rosary and deepen your devotion to Our Lady.

I would like to share with you that I have been transferred to St. Patrick's Parish by Bishop Gary Gordon, and I will begin my new assignment there on July 1, 2026, serving as pastor and school chaplain.

As I share this news, I do so with a grateful heart. Though my time here as your pastor has been brief, it has been deeply meaningful. Holy Cross will always remain my first home in Victoria, and I am truly thankful for the warmth, kindness, and support you have shown me from the very beginning.

I am grateful that I still have the next two months to spend with you, to pray together, to celebrate our faith together, and to continue to build our bond as community.

Since St. Patrick's Parish is only about 4 km away; I am not going very far. Please don't forget to check in on me from time to time, I would be very happy to stay connected and continue our friendship.

I carry you all in my prayers and ask that you continue to keep me in yours as I begin this new mission.

May God bless you and your families abundantly.

Your Pastor,

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



Peter Hobbs

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Peter Hobbs, who passed away peacefully on April 16, 2026 at the age of 91.

Peter began his career in education as a physical education teacher in England and served as teacher, vice-principal, principal and district program co-ordinator in various jurisdictions in Alberta, B.C. and the Northwest Territories. His role as the Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools was the peak of a lifetime of involvement with Catholic education.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Peter was celebrated on Thursday April 30, 2026, at 12:00 PM at St. Andrews Cathedral in Victoria (740 View St). To obtain the livestream details or to offer condolences, please visit <https://www.mccallgardens.com/obituaries/peter-hobbs/>



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

When I trust deeply that today God is truly with me and holds me safe in a divine embrace, guiding every one of my steps, I can let go of my anxious need to know how tomorrow will look, or what will happen next month or next year. I can be fully where I am and pay attention to the many signs of God's love within me and around me. *Henri Nouwen*

We seldom realize fully that we are sent to fulfill God-given tasks. We act as if we were simply dropped down in creation and have to decide to entertain ourselves until we die. But we were sent into the world by God, just as Jesus was. Once we start living our lives with that conviction, we will soon know what we were sent to do. *Henri Nouwen*

Infant Baptism - Baptismal Prep for the Parents

Is it your hope to have your infant welcomed into the family of God through baptism? Is so, to prepare to have your child baptized, parents must participate in a Baptismal Prep course and complete a baptism registration form. Please note that the next session available to take a Baptismal Prep course is Thursday, May 14 (4:00-6:00).

ST. ANDREW'S REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL Production of ANNIE_{JR}

Playing at Spectrum High School Theatre -May 7, May 8 and two shows May 9

Tickets \$20.00 each are available at <https://schoolcashionline.com/>

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 home, 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.

Ellis' Plants, Your Donations All Helping Mt. St. Mary's Hospital

Mt. St. Mary's Hospital, founded by the Sisters of St. Ann, has long held a special place in Ellis' heart, witness the thousands of plants and vegetable starters he has worked hard to produce and even harder to sell! Our Holy Cross community eagerly buys his offerings and Mt. St. Mary's is the recipient of all profits from these sales. Ellis says he still has, "five colors of beautiful geraniums ready for planting." Lots of petunias, marigolds and zucchini. *Baskets will be ready for May 15 pickup.*

'Thanks for helping'

Ellis Achtem

250 477 6754

Diocese of Victoria Family Camp and Conference - August 2026

Registration is now open for the 12th Annual Diocese of Victoria Family Camp and Conference. Families are invited to gather for a fun, faith-filled weekend of fellowship, play, and prayer, taking place August 20-23 at beautiful Nanose Bay Camp.

Details are at: <https://12thAnnualVictoriaDioceseFamilyCampandConference.eventbrite.ca>

CHANCERY NEWS

1. Conversations in the Spirit (Online Session) All are invited to take part in an online “Conversation in the Spirit” synodal session Saturday, May 9 from 10:30am-Noon. These sessions are part of the Diocese of Victoria's journey of becoming a more deeply listening Church. This safe, respectful, and non-judgmental session will explore questions about **how** to bring the Good News to our communities. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81881926381?pwd=K8hfpytrbBlv18YHYjblaOTmotzcub.1> Meeting ID: 818 8192 6381 Passcode: 921735

2. Family and Life Week 2026: National Family and Life Week (NFLW) takes place from May 10-17, centring on the theme “**I am with you always**” (cf. Matthew 28:20), which reminds the church that Christ remains in all of life's experiences. Families and communities are encouraged to take time during the week to celebrate their families, express gratitude, and share meaningful moments with loved ones. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has a number of resources for families and groups to use, see them at: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/family-and-life/national-family-and-life-week/>

3. Fr. Ian Stuart Funeral Mass: Beloved Fr. Ian Charles Stuart passed away on April 9, 2026 in Victoria. Father Ian, born on May 27, 1952 in St. Boniface, Manitoba was ordained in the Archdiocese of Vancouver in 1987, where he served many parishes before moving to Victoria. He served as a hospital chaplain in the Victoria Diocese and was known for his kindness and pastoral approach to his ministry. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, May 8 at 1:00pm at St. Patrick's Church.

3. CNEWA Canada Webinar on the Middle East Crisis: CNEWA Canada. There will be a webinar, Wednesday, May 6, 12:00–1:00 PM on the ongoing conflict and the immense challenges facing communities in the Middle East. With on-the-ground experience, they will offer firsthand insights into the realities unfolding in their regions and the urgent needs of those they serve. Register at: <https://cnewa.org/ca/events/hope-in-action-the-middle-east-needs-you/>

4. KAIROS Blanket Exercise In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the CWL of Sacred Heart Parish is pleased to announce the rescheduled KAIROS Blanket Exercise in the Parish Hall, on Saturday May 23rd, 9:30-12noon. It is an 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 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 questions or would like to register, contact Margie Noonan at margielnoonan@gmail.com or 250-589-6313.

COLLECTIONS	
April 26, 2026	
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS	
Envelopes	\$3,190.00
Loose	\$565.00
Development & Peace	\$10.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1362.91
Total	\$5,127.91

Thank You

Today let us thank everyone who contributed to the funeral celebration of our Sister Judi Morin. People helped move chairs into the Church, dropped by with her favourite flowers, answered the phones and relayed messages, gave others rides to the Church, set up the Parish Hall, decorated the reception tables, hosted the reception, cleaned up Church and Parish Hall, set up flower arrangements in the Church, discussed procedures and coordinated volunteers, welcomed visitors and Judi's family, celebrated mass, provided liturgical ministers, sang and prayed and celebrated Sister Judi. It was a happening and gave us a glimpse of heaven!

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321

office@holycrossvictoria.org

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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 times.

CONTACT US

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dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

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