

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2026

A Living Union

The readings this Sunday form a clear path for the Christian life: Baptism, Confirmation, and the living presence of Christ within us, particularly through the Eucharist.

The Path of Initiation

In the first reading from Acts, we see the early Church in action. The people of Samaria receive the Word of God with joy and are baptized, yet something remains incomplete. It is only when the Apostles lay hands on them that they receive the Holy Spirit.

This is our experience of Confirmation. If Baptism begins the life of faith, Confirmation strengthens, seals, and sends it out. The result in Samaria was "great joy in that city"—a communal joy that occurs whenever God is truly welcomed.

Joy Amidst Struggles

Saint Peter reminds us in the second reading that this joy is grounded in reality, not escapism. He warns that it is "better to suffer for doing good." The Christian life isn't a promise of ease; it is a promise of meaning. When we face difficulties for the sake of the Gospel, we are united to Christ, who suffered for us. Our faith is not just a fair-weather celebration; it is the anchor that holds us in the storm.

"I Am in You"

In the Gospel, Jesus brings us to the heart of the matter: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Love is an action, not just a sentiment. He then offers a staggering promise: "I will not leave you orphans... I am in my Father, and you are in me and I in you."

Through the Eucharist, this union becomes tangible. When we receive Holy Communion, it is not a mere symbol. Christ Himself dwells within us.

The early Christians transformed entire regions because they lived this union. Today, we are called to bring that same transformation to our families, our workplaces, and our parish.

This Sunday, let us examine our journey. Are we treating our faith as a past event or a routine? Or are we ready for it to become a transformation? Jesus does not want distant followers; He wants a living union. Let us open our hearts to the reality that Christ is alive within us.

Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC

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.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, May 9

4PM MASS:
Pro Populo

SUNDAY, May 10

9AM MASS:
John Pigott+

TUESDAY, May 12

9AM MASS:
Arturo Colangeli+

WEDNESDAY, May 13

5:30PM-6:30PM
ADORATION
6:30PM MASS:
Thaddeus Anglin+

THURSDAY, May 14

9AM MASS:
Jean McIntyre+

FRIDAY, May 15

9AM MASS:
Steve Bliska+

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CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM
TUESDAY - FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4PM

TUES, THURS & FRI

8:45AM - 9AM

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY

May 9, 4:00PM

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

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

From The Pastor's Desk

My dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,
Greetings of peace and love.

This weekend we celebrate Mother's Day. It is a beautiful providence that we honor our earthly mothers during May, the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Motherhood is a high and sacred calling; indeed, what relationship can ever truly replace the unique love of a mother or a grandmother? It is essential to recognize that the guidance and influence women provide to their children are distinct, invaluable, and irreplaceable.

For every mother seeking to be true to this calling, we need only look to Mary. She is our ultimate model. One aspect of Mary's life that offers profound inspiration today is the fortitude she showed during the Passion of Our Lord. Mary stood firm at the foot of the Cross.

Today, many women face their own "Calvaries" the pain of divorce, the exhaustion of being a single parent, the heavy heart of a widow, or the worry over a prodigal child. To all mothers and grandmothers: find in Mary the faith and hope to stand firm. All suffering has transformative power when united to the Cross of Jesus. Offer those daily sacrifices for your children and grandchildren, knowing they are never in vain.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication of the women in our parish. Women who live out their femininity with grace are living icons of the tenderness of God. Whether you are a mom in a traditional family, a stepmother, a "step-in" mom, Godmother or a grandmother raising a second generation: you deserve our honour today.

As the saying goes, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."

And finally, a practical tip for the children: don't forget to pick up a nice bottle of wine for your mom today. After all, let's be honest you are likely the reason she drinks!

Happy Mother's Day to all!

Your Pastor, Fr Silvichan Dominic CFIC



Conversation in the Spirit (Listening Circles)

Our diocesan synod journey continues as we reflect on how to bring the Good News to our communities. Bishop Gary invites all parishioners to take part in a Conversation in the Spirit. A respectful, prayerful opportunity to listen, share, and discern together. See the poster on the bulletin board or under "Bulletins & Notices" on the website.

Sessions (about 1.5 hours):

- Sunday, May 24 at 10:30am (Chapel)
- Tuesday, May 26 at 9:45am (Chapel)
- Thursday, May 28 at 6:30pm (Online via Zoom)

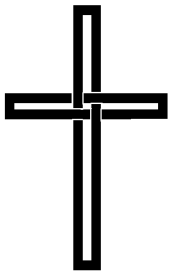
Sign up by May 20 through the parish office or the sheet at the back of the church.

Before attending, please reflect on:

- How do we foster connection with others?
- How do I listen with compassion and respect?
- How do I share the Good News with family and friends?

Preventing MAiD for Mental Illness: Presentation by Dr. Sephora Tang

Dr. Sephora Tang will be visiting Victoria at the end of the month and will give a presentation about the professional concerns around the expansion of MAiD to include mental illness. The presentation will take place on Sunday, May 31st at 10:30 am in the Holy Cross Parish Hall. Dr. Tang is a psychiatrist with the Ottawa Hospital, a member of the Catholic Women's League, and a tireless advocate for the prevention of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) for mental illness. She has been deeply engaged in both clinical practice and public education on this issue and recently gave a presentation to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute on this topic.



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.
-Corrie Ten Boom

The Holy Spirit transforms and renews us, creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for mission.
-Pope Francis

Join the Choir!

Do you love to sing? Please consider joining the Sunday 9 am choir who usually sing on the first and third Sundays of each month. We rehearse the Thursday evening prior; no musical experience or note reading necessary. If you would like to try us out, please contact the office (250-477-5321 or office@holycrossvictoria.org) with your email. The Choir Director will be in touch.

Infant Baptism - Baptismal Prep for the Parents

Is it your hope to have your infant welcomed into the family of God through baptism? If 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 pm). Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism and forward you the baptism registration form.



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

March For LIFE in Abundance - Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are inviting the community to their March for LIFE & Dinner on May 14th. The event begins at the 12:00pm Mass at St. Andrews Cathedral, continues with a march to the BC Legislature, and ends with a ticketed dinner and guest speaker. For more information go to: m4lvictoria.ca



Return 2025 Library Books

Have you borrowed a book from our HC Library? We try to keep our HC Library check-out system easy and simple for parishioners, and as a result, it is easy to forget to return books. Please check around your home to see if you have any books from the Holy Cross library that you have forgotten to return, especially any books checked out in 2025. You may leave them in the plastic box in the church foyer or in the library.



You're invited to Katesismong Pilipino (KP)

Katesismong Pilipino (KP)—a Filipino Catechism of the Catholic Church here in Victoria—warmly invite you and your parishioners to join us for a Filipino Mass on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM at Holy Cross Catholic Church. This Eucharistic celebration is part of Flores de Mayo ("Flowers of May"), a cherished Filipino devotion held throughout the month of May in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a meaningful occasion that brings together faith, culture, and community. Please find our event flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1. Pastoral Appointments Announcement: After prayerful discernment, Bishop Gary Gordon, in collaboration with the Diocesan Personnel Committee, has announced new pastoral appointments across the Diocese. The appointments may be viewed online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/pastoral-appointments-announcement>

2. The Blessed Marie Anne Blondin Bursary St. Mark's College at UBC is now accepting applications for bursaries and awards offered for people within the Diocese of Victoria. The deadline to apply for the Blessed Marie Anne Blondin Bursary (\$1,500) is coming up on May 15. For eligibility requirements and to apply, go to: <https://stmarkscollege.ca/scholarships-and-financial-aid/#GraduateScholarships>

3. Family and Life Week 2026: National Family and Life Week (NFLW) takes place this year from May 10-17, centering on the theme "I am with you always" (cf. Matthew 28:20). Families and communities are encouraged to take time during the week to celebrate their own families, express gratitude, and share meaningful moments with loved ones across generations. See more at: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/family-and-life/national-family-and-life-week/>

4. Our Lady of the Rosary 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser: A new online 50/50 raffle fundraiser to have been launched to support the new childcare and early learning facility. This centre will nurture children, support families, and serve our growing community for generations to come, while helping address gaps created by recent changes to provincial ELCC capital funding.

- Ticket sales begin: **May 8, 2026 (PDT)**
- Ticket sales end: **June 30, 2026 (PDT)**
- Draw date: **July 4, 2026 (PDT)**

Get your ticket starting May 8th here: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/oltrp>

5. St. Andrew's High School Spring Fling Concert - St. Andrew's Regional High School Music Dept. will be presenting their annual Spring Fling concert on Wed, May 27th at 7pm at Holy Cross Church. This is sure to be a fantastic evening of music featuring performances by the award-winning St. Andrew's Singers, Concert Band and Jazz Band. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and they can be purchased at the door. There will also be a reception with food following the concert in the church hall. All are welcome on the 27th for the SARHS Spring Fling!

COLLECTIONS

May 3, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$1,430.00
Loose	\$ 350.00
D&P (UVic Students)	\$ 700.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$3,842.91

Thank You

We are blessed that Father Silvan celebrates Holy Mass six times a week at Holy Cross Church. We appreciate his thoughtful reflections and his reverent presence. We thank the team of sacristans who serve Father Silvan and, us, the parishioners. Most sacristans arrive 45 – 60 minutes before the mass to set up the sacred vessels and the readings, and to turn on heat, sound, and lights. They coordinate the liturgical ministries assigned for that mass and during the celebration of the mass remain in the sanctuary, ready to support Father Silvan. After the mass, sacristans clean up, return books and sacred vessels, lock up, and close the gate after everyone has left. Every week six different sacristans take on this special task of service. We are grateful for your effort and commitment!

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 times.

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

Conversation in the Spirit (Listening Circles)

“Our synodal journey as the people of God in the Diocese of Victoria continues. Since the beginning of our walking together—our *syn-hodos*—the heart of our way together has been listening to the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, and listening to one another. Together, this has become a rich ‘Conversation in the Spirit.’” — **Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria (October 2025)**



As you may know, Bishop Gary announced the formation of the Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod (DPPS) at Pentecost in 2023. The diocese has continued the synod journey, with new questions being asked each year. Now called *Conversation in the Spirit*, this year’s cycle, we will be exploring questions about **how** to bring the Good News to our communities. Our parish’s thoughts together with others from across the diocese will help Bishop Gary and diocesan leadership discern and direct the future of our diocese.

If you would like to have your voice heard, please sign up for a *Conversation in the Spirit* - a safe, respectful, and non-judgmental opportunity for us to listen and to learn from one another. The focus is on listening to each other, so we are better able to hear the direction of the Holy Spirit and accompany one another on the journey.

Bishop Gary wants to hear from as many people as possible. You are invited to join **one** of the three *Conversation in the Spirit* sessions being offered in our parish. **A** session usually takes about 1.5 hours. One can choose to participate in any one of the following sessions:

Sunday, May 24 at 10:30am (in the Chapel), or

Tuesday, May 26 at 9:45 am (in the Chapel), or

Online – Thursday, May 28 at 6:30pm (via zoom) – zoom link will be provided

To participate, please call or email the parish office OR add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church by May 20.

In preparation for your participation, we earnestly invite you to reflect on the three questions. The questions are:

How do we bring a sense of connection to others?

How do I listen to others with compassion and respect?

How do I bring the Good News to family and friends?