

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 17, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, May 16

4PM MASS:
Pro Populo

SUNDAY, May 17

9AM MASS:
Seamus O'Connor+

TUESDAY, May 19

9AM MASS:
Christopher Simpson+

WEDNESDAY, May 20

5:30PM-6:30PM
ADORATION
6:30PM MASS: Florence
Bushell+

THURSDAY, May 21

9AM MASS:
Fr Ian Stuart+

FRIDAY, May 22

9AM MASS

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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 16, 4:00PM

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

It was now 40 days since Jesus' resurrection, the day we mark as 'Ascension Thursday' in our Church Calendar.

So much had happened in those 40 days. In appearances at the empty tomb by an angel and by Jesus in the garden the women were told to tell the disciples that Jesus would go before them to Galilee to a specific mountain where He would meet them. In His many appearances Jesus talked to His disciples and revealed great truths, "the fear of death and all its horrors were taken away" and Jesus affirmed the immortality of body and soul to His disciples. "He breathed on all His apostles and filled them with the Holy Spirit." The apostles thought about and talked about all that Jesus told them.

Initially, they had stayed in and around Jerusalem often gathering in the Upper Room. By this time, they had been in Galilee several weeks. This day they climbed the gentle slopes of the mountain where Jesus had said He would come to them. When they saw Jesus, some knowingly worshipped Him but some weren't sure. Jesus spoke to them in a tone they recognized gentle, loving, accepting. His was the voice they knew, the voice they trusted, the voice that spoke home to them. But this meeting with Jesus was different from His other appearances. He gave all of them, even those who doubted, a great and grave mission. It was a mission that once back in Jerusalem they would come to fully understand. He told them that all authority had been given to Him, that He was to return in the flesh to His Father and their Father and that the Holy Spirit would be their guide and that He would never leave them. He told them they were to open the divine love of God to everyone, no exceptions and to baptize everyone. He said all those who were baptized were to live lives transformed by love and brought to holiness. Then, as they walked toward Bethany Jesus blessed them and was taken from their sight.

Journeying back to Jerusalem past familiar places in Galilee, they remembered all that had happened in the last three years, the calling of the first disciples, the miracles, the healings, the teachings, Jesus' withdrawing to pray.... They had come 'full circle' as it were and in God's Spirit, they now understood things in light of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. Theirs the mission to make 'disciples of all nations'. The spirit of God in them strengthened them and in their sorrow, they were filled with great joy and hope.

What does this gospel reading mean for us today? As baptized receivers of the apostles' mission we are anointed and have received new life in Christ. We are not to be passive in our baptism but are called to invite the Holy Spirit to lead us each day. Jesus' ascension was not a leaving but a shift in how He is present. In His promise to be with us to 'the end of the age', Jesus is present in us and through us. In our personal and often contemplated relationship with Him, we are witnesses to the world by the lives that we lead as we become 'hearers and doers' of the word.

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

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral News Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Father Silvan asked me to share with you a special event – a historical event – that took place Monday evening, May 11th at St. Joseph the Worker Church Hall.

Many of you know that a group of Ahousaht First Nations use our church hall most Thursday evenings for cultural gatherings. They share food, practice singing, drumming, dancing, and speaking their language Nuuchah-nulth. They gather and celebrate. Their traditional activities were banned for many years and now Elders are teaching the younger generations in the hope that their language and culture will not be lost. St. Joseph's Church and School and Our Lady of the Rosary Church also provide space for the Ahousaht community to gather. The sharing of these spaces was initiated by a chance meeting between one of the Ahousaht leaders, Pamela Webster, and Bishop Gary about five years ago.

The Ahousaht leaders decided to invite Bishop Gary, Chancellor Teresa and administrators from St. Joseph's Church and School, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, and Holy Cross Church to a dinner on May 11th to thank the Victoria Catholic Diocese for their support and the use of their space. Sloane Secord and I attended this special event, representing Holy Cross Church.

It was a great honour and blessing to be part of such a significant occasion! The leaders prepared an amazing many-course dinner. Grace was spoken in English and sung in Nuuchah-nulth. During the dinner we had the opportunity to connect with several of the Ahousaht people and hear their stories. Dinner was followed by traditional singing, drumming, dancing, and flute playing – so beautiful and moving! At one point the administrators of the Parishes and Diocese were called to the front of the assembly, thanked, and presented with gifts. Both Sloane and I were blanketed (a blanket was placed around our shoulders) – enveloped in warmth and care – an unforgettable experience.

Other great highlights were the speeches by three Elders, Guy, Angus, and Greg. Each one of them talked about their gratitude to the Diocese for their efforts in reconciliation. They talked about hope, love, and respect. They encouraged the embrace of the old ways and the Catholic ways and shared their word *reconciliation*. They talked about intergenerational love and that all of us are human! And they shared their conviction that we will journey and work together from now till the end of time!

Sloane and I were filled with gratitude that we were able to participate in this historical happening and be witnesses to the power of compassion and respect leading to reconciliation and hope. We are grateful to the Ahousaht people for their generosity in choosing forgiveness and appreciating our efforts to support their healing and recovery. We are grateful to Bishop Gary, who by his example and leadership, is helping us reconcile with the beautiful, loving people of Ahousaht.

May this celebration on May 11th be followed by many more steps towards unity and harmony.

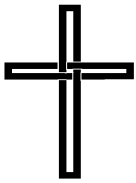
Peace and Joy to all, Tanya

GVAT Invites you to the 'Let's Stay Cool Climate Academy' Event

Holy Cross is a member of GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together), a social and climate justice alliance made up of faith communities, environmental organizations, unions, student societies and front-line service providers. Members of the SEJC have been active in GVAT since 2018. You're invited to 'Let's Stay Cool Climate Academy' on Thursday May 28 (7:00-8:30 pm at Broad View United Church), to hear speaker Dr. Trevor Hancock discuss climate action at the local level (e.g. ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, mitigate the impact of extreme heat on our health). For more information and to register for this event, please contact Yvonne Hsieh (yhsieh@uvic.ca).

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. Registration sheet is in the foyer.



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

You ascended before our eyes, and we turned back grieving, only to find You in our hearts.
- Augustine of Hippo

Rosemary for Sale

A parishioner will be selling dried rosemary from her garden at the 4:00 pm and 9:00 am masses on May 23 and 24, next week. All proceeds will go to the altar flower budget. The dried bundles will be sold for \$1.00 each or larger donations gratefully accepted.



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?

St. Andrew's High School Spring Fling Concert - Wed, May 27th, 7pm@Holy Cross

St. Andrew's Regional High School Music Dept. will be presenting the 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!



You're invited to Flores de Mayo

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.

Prayer for the Children Preparing for Confirmation and First Communion at Holy Cross and St Patrick's: *Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children preparing to receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them - the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, reverence, and fear of the LORD. May it be the beginning of a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.* We have 12 children who will celebrate the sacraments on Sunday June 7, 2026 at the 4pm Sunday Mass at St Patrick's with the Bishop's visit and reception to follow in the Our Lady of Lourdes Hall. All are welcome. Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1. CCCB Letter to the Holy Father on the First Anniversary of His Pontificate - The CCCB President sent a letter to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV on the occasion of the first anniversary of his pontificate. Through this letter, the CCCB President conveyed the heartfelt greetings of the Bishops of Canada, as well as the assurance of their prayers and of the unwavering solidarity of the Church in Canada as the Holy Father carries out his Petrine ministry in the service of the Universal Church. Read the letter here: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-05-08-Letter-from-CCCB-President-to-Pope-Leo-XIV-First-Anniversary.pdf>

2. Invitation: World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Pilgrimage - We are excited to begin exploring interest in forming a group from across our diocese to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea! World Youth Day (WYD) is a powerful international gathering of young Catholics, offering an opportunity for prayer, cultural exchange, and a meaningful encounter with Christ and the universal Church alongside the Holy Father. At this early stage, we are gauging interest from youth, families, and leaders who may wish to participate in this pilgrimage. Please contact the office for more information on the travel proposals below:

-7 nights in Seoul with roundtrip transfers

- 9 nights in Seoul with roundtrip transfers and a full-day tour

Please note: Expressing interest at this stage is simply to help with planning and does not commit you to the trip. If you have anyone interested, email Fr. Joseph Thomas who is organizing at: jthomas@rcdvictoria.org

3. KAIROS Blanket Exercise - In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the CWL of Sacred Heart Parish is hosting the KAIROS Blanket Exercise in the Parish Hall at 4040 Nelthorpe Street, on Saturday May 23rd 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". All are welcome. If you have any questions and to register, contact Margie Noonan at margielnoonan@gmail.com or 250-589-6313.

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 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.



COLLECTIONS

May 10, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,300.00
Loose	\$ 370.00
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 305.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,362.91
Total	\$4,337.91

Thank You

The Holy Cross Social/Eco Justice Committee continues to promote actions and education to increase justice and awareness in our common home of Victoria. We are grateful for their initiative to collect food to combat the food insecurity of UVic students, giving the Holy Cross community the opportunity to participate. This past year, the Social/Eco Justice Committee continued their support of Write for Rights, GVAT, Development and Peace, the Moosehide Walk and the Coldest Night of the Year. We appreciate this committed and active committee! Thank you!

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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dshulist@rcdvictoria.org

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