

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, August 15

4PM MASS:

John Burrs+

SUNDAY, August 16

9AM MASS:

Pro Populo

TUESDAY, August 18

9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

THURSDAY, August 20

9AM LITURGY OF THE
WORD WITH HOLY
COMMUNION

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CHAPEL

Open 9AM-12PM

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY

August 15, 4:00 PM

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

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse go to
[RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry](https://www.rcdvictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)

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.

This was not the first time that Jesus had cast out a demon nor was it the first time He had healed someone from outside His Jewish family. What is different about this gospel is the somewhat long conversation Jesus had with this woman who was pleading and interceding for her demon possessed daughter. In this gospel, two important things emerge, one about Jesus and one about the woman. Each has meaning and relevance for us today.

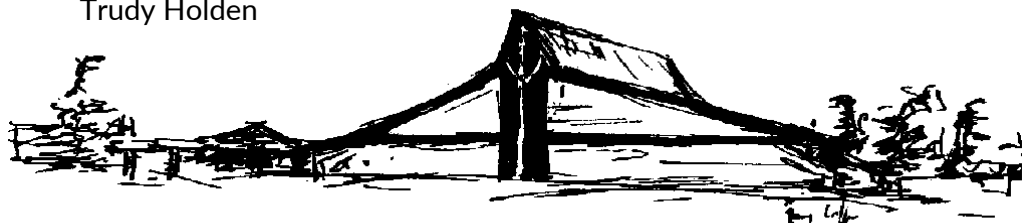
In His encounter with this woman Jesus clearly and unequivocally told her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." He further suggested that she, her people and her culture were outsiders, less than. Nevertheless, Jesus continued to talk to her. He listened to what she had to say. He was touched by her faith and He responded.

For the woman's part, her ancient ancestors thought to have been descendants of Noah through his son Ham, had long ago lost that connection. She was now of Canaanite heritage, a gentile, a pagan who believed in and worshipped many gods, Baal being one of the prominent deities well known and condemned by Old Testament prophets. Over time Canaanites and Jews had learned to ignore and avoid each other, though, at times, they each showed disdain one for the other. It took courage then for the woman to approach Jesus. Nevertheless, she approached Him with respect calling him Lord; she recognized Him and humbly acknowledged Him as "Son of David"; she asked Him to be merciful; she asked Him to help her; she asked him to cure her daughter. She had faith and believed in Jesus' power and authority. Hers was a beautiful prayer, a sincere and honest prayer from her heart. But her prayer did not end there and she did not turn from her steadfast pleading or from her encounter with Jesus. She and Jesus continued talking, maybe, in some ways, like the way Jesus talked to his Father at night on quiet hillsides. Each talked and each listened, as we do when we pray.

That day in the district of Tyre and Sidon Jesus saw deep, profound faith and trust in a Canaanite woman, a woman who was not part 'of the lost sheep of Israel', a woman who as an outsider and He answered her prayer. That day in the district of Tyre and Sidon *Jesus brought salvation to the whole world; no one is left out. Everyone is included.* For the Jewish people, Jesus had confirmed and reassured them that He had been sent to them and now he showed them that he had come to the gentiles also. He had come for everyone. A sidebar to salvation extended to everyone – it is a blessing for those of us, maybe most of us, whose ancient heritage might be among gentile stock.

In the Canaanite woman we heard a brave prayer from a wounded heart, we were witnesses to her encounter with Jesus. We saw that the outsider, the one who doesn't necessarily have a professed or formalized belief, the one who maybe doesn't go to church, is loved by Jesus, accepted by Him and can come to Him in prayer. For the Psalm tells us, "The Lord is close to all who call on Him from their hearts." We are called to love, accept and respect everyone as Jesus did. We are called to know that prayer and encounter with Jesus are not limited to a 'particular' few or 'special' groups but are open to all. We cannot do anything less.

Trudy Holden



Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Fall 2026

The Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 12:00, starting Sept 26 and running until Nov 28 (with no session on October 10). Register through the office. Zoom option, or an in-person option at the Holy Cross library is available. Please register with the office by September 17, 2026.

Children's Sacramental Preparation

Is your child aged 7 to 17 yrs old and ready to receive the sacraments? Register for Sacramental Preparation classes by Sept 30. Forms are available on the Religious Education page on the website holycrossvictoria.org. This year all classes take place at Holy Cross. For more details, contact Tanya Taft, ttaft@rcdvictoria.org.

World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Pilgrimage

Calling all youth aged 19 to 35! Are you interested in joining our Diocese on a pilgrimage to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea? If you or anyone you know are interested in learning more about this potentially life changing pilgrimage, please fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/dQZVd6EDpZ>. An informational session about the pilgrimage will be held this Sunday, August 16, 12:30pm at St. Andrews Cathedral. Visit the website to learn more: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/wyd-2027>

UVic Food Insecurity Project: Collections for Back to School

The SEJC is calling upon the generosity of parish members to donate food to UVic students in need. Items donated in August, will be delivered to students in September at the Multi-Faith Centre. The green bins are back in the foyer to collect food donations. This month we welcome canned fish, meat, beans, pasta or sauce.

Baptismal Preparation

Are you planning to have your child baptized? If so, to prepare for your child's baptism, parents must participate in a Baptismal Prep course and complete a baptism registration form. Please choose one of the next available prep courses below:

Sat, Aug 22 (10 am – 12pm)

Thurs, Sept 10 (6 pm – 8pm)

Sat, Oct 10 (10 am – 12pm)

Please email hcsppbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism and forward you the baptism registration form.

CWL Convention Collection Supports the Lions Food Bank. Read the full article online at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/cwl-convention-collection-supports-the-lions-food-bank>

Appeal Administrative Assistant - The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking an Appeal Administrative Assistant: Full details here are available on the website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

COLLECTIONS

August 9, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$4,175.00
Loose	\$ 340.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 20.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,237.53
Total	\$5,772.53

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

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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.

Rachel's Vineyard on Vancouver Island

Rachel's Vineyard is offering a safe and confidential retreat from Sept. 11-13, 2026 for women and men seeking healing and peace after abortion. Please share with anyone who would benefit from this type of healing. To learn more or register, please email rachelsvineyard-vancouverisland@gmail.com. You can also find more information here: <https://www.rachelsvineyardvanisland.org/>

CONTACT US

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UVic & Camosun Chaplain: Father David Shulist SJ

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Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn /

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