

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 13, 2026

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, September 12

10:30AM FUNERAL MASS:

Bob Das+

4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, September 13

9AM MASS & INSTALLATION OF FR ERIK: Bob Das+

TUESDAY, September 15

9AM MASS:

Judy Dunsmuir+

WEDNESDAY, September 16

6:30PM MASS: Bob Das+

THURSDAY, September 17

9AM MASS

FRIDAY, September 18

9AM MASS

CHÂPEL

Open 9AM-12PM

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

RECONCILIATION

WEDNESDAY

6PM-6:30PM

SATURDAY

3:30PM - 4PM

LIVESTREAMING

SATURDAY September 12,

4:00 PM

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

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)

To forgive and to be forgiven, two sides of the same coin we might say. Each side comes with its own impacts and responsibilities. We've all had experience on both sides of the coin.

In today's gospel, Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive. He probably thought Jesus would be pleased when answering his own question, Peter suggested that to forgive seven times would be generous since two or three times was standard. You can be sure Peter stood aghast when Jesus answered that we are to forgive without limit.

Jesus told them a parable. There was a master who was repeatedly and continually thoughtful, kind and generous to his slave. Over time he loaned the slave an amount of money that he could not possibly have repaid in his lifetime. The master knew this well. When time came to settle debts, the master showed the ultimate act of love. He forgave the slave his entire debt. The slate was wiped clean! The 'balance owing' column was empty.

The forgiven slave left his master's house that day, hugely relieved but his 'thank you' was shallow. His encounter with his master's forgiveness did not reach into his heart; he remained unchanged. He made no connection between how he had been treated and how he lived his daily life. And so, when he met a fellow slave who owed him money anger raged within him. The amount that this slave owed could be repaid over time but would require mercy and help from the just forgiven slave. But he was having none of that. He demanded full payment, here and now. When the slave could not do this the forgiven slave punished him and threw him into jail, destroying him and his family. The slave had lots of reasons to justify and explain his actions. Sadly, some reasons sounded reasonable maybe even acceptable - after all he was in the right; he had been taken advantage of far too often; to forgive would make him look weak and powerless perhaps even make him look like he was in the wrong; what would his family and friends say; it was time to set an example and not be a doormat any longer.

At another time in another setting, Peter saw this parable of the master who loved and forgave come to life. As He hung, innocent and dying on a cross Jesus forgave those who tortured and crucified Him and put Him to death. He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing". Jesus forgave His persecutors and murderers, those friends and followers who fled and did not stay with Him in his time of suffering and utter need, those who denied Him and even the one who betrayed Him. He forgives us. Jesus forgives through all the generations of history.

Jesus' forgiveness is undergirded by His love. He loves so deeply, so unconditionally that forgiveness has to exist within His love. Indeed, forgiveness cannot exist outside of love as love cannot live in unforgiveness. In forgiving Jesus brings the forgiven, His beloved in God as we all are, back into life in Him, life in discipleship. As we walk the road of forgiveness we come to listen with gentleness, humility and respect, to speak truth in love and to enfold justice in mercy. If at times we find unforgiveness in our heart, if we refuse to forgive, we cannot claim to love no matter how much we may try to justify and explain away not forgiving.

Jesus tells us to forgive, to forgive without limit. Yet, we all know, absolutely, that we cannot do this alone. We need Jesus and Jesus working through others to even entertain the possibility of forgiving. Let us ask Jesus to give us the desire and the courage to love as He loves so that we may forgive as He forgives. "What a wonderful world this could be". Amen.

Trudy Holden

'Our Father ... forgive us ... as we forgive ...'



PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Pastoral News Corner

“Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.” These familiar words take on special meaning each year on September 14, when the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. They also speak directly to who we are as Holy Cross Parish.

Our parish name reminds us that the Cross is not only an instrument of suffering and shame. In faith, it is the sign of Christ’s love, victory, and hope. What seemed to be defeat is revealed as the place where God’s mercy is poured out for the life of the world.

The feast has deep roots in Christian tradition, recalling the discovery of the Cross by St. Helena and the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Yet at its heart, the feast is not about an object from the past. It is about the living mystery of salvation: Christ lifted up for us, drawing all people to himself.

Jesus points us to this mystery: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,” and again, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.” The Cross, then, is not the end of the story. It is the doorway to resurrection, healing, and new life.

As Holy Cross Parish, we are invited to “lift high the cross” not only in song, but in daily life: proclaiming Christ’s love, carrying one another’s burdens, and bearing witness to the hope that flows from his saving sacrifice.

Have a wonderful week, Father Erik

D&P Fall Workshop

D&P animator, Raphael Freston, will be hosting a workshop at Queen of Peace Parish on Sat, Sept 19th from 9:30am to 1:30pm. All are welcome to attend either workshop. More info about the organization at: www.dev.org. Please bring your own lunch. For info: Nancy Stuart 250-580-4444

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 Sept 17, 2026.

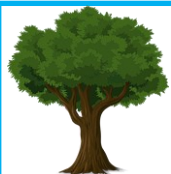
Hearts for Homes Gala

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Vancouver Island invites you to the Hearts for Homes Gala. Join us on Oct 3 at the Union Club of Victoria (805 Gordon Street, Victoria, BC) for a memorable evening to support affordable housing. For tickets go to: <https://www.hibid.ca/events/hearts-for-homes>



Baptismal Preparation

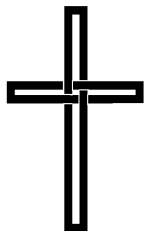
To prepare for your child’s baptism, parents must participate in a Baptismal Prep course and complete a baptism registration form. The next course is Sat, Oct 10 (10 am – 12pm). Please email hcsbp baptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org to register.



World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

September 1 marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, a special season of ecumenical solidarity where Christians come together in prayer and action to protect our common home. Learn more about this season, read the Holy Father’s message, and see how you can get involved at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/season-of-creation-2026-living-water>

Synchronous Marriage Preparation Courses are now available over Zoom. For details or to register please check our website: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/marriage-prep>



QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

True forgiveness does not await repentance, but offers itself first, as a free gift, even before it is accepted. . . . The freedom of the other, even when it is lost in evil, can still be reached by the light of a meek gesture.
Pope Leo XIV

It is here that forgiveness reveals all its power and manifests the true face of hope. It is not forgetfulness; it is not weakness. It is the ability to set the other free, while loving him to the end. Jesus' love does not deny the truth of pain, but it does not allow evil to have the last word. This is the mystery Jesus accomplishes for us, in which we too, at times, are called to participate.
Pope Leo XIV

Rosary Walk

Join the Legion of Mary for a Rosary Walk in recognition of the month of the Holy Rosary. Meet at Mile 0 in Beacon Hill Park at 10:30 am, Saturday October 3rd. Potluck at St. Andrew's Cathedral to follow. For more information, contact Faye Baligod at faye_baligod@hotmail.com



New Course on Beginning Apologetics

Join a 10-week apologetics program at the St. Andrew's Cathedral from Sept 23 to Nov 25, facilitated by Bernadette O'Connor. The course is entitled: "A Catholic Perspective of Steadfast Hope expressed with Gentleness and Respect." The 1.5 hour sessions will be held Wednesdays at either (1) in person at 2pm or (2) 6:30pm on Zoom. Please contact St Andrew's Cathedral office to register.

Inaugural GLORIA Christmas Market - Seeking Vendors

St. Joseph the Worker Parish is hosting the inaugural GLORIA Christmas Market on Sat, Dec 5, 2026. They are seeking local artisans, makers, and small businesses offering thoughtful Christmas gifts including pottery, handmade soaps and candles, artwork, jewelry, baked goods, or other beautiful artisanal products. Vendor tables are \$50. For more information email: awalkercollins@gmail.com



Fall 2026 Prayer in the style of Taizé

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church (10030 Third Street, Sidney BC) will host ecumenical prayer sessions in The Way of Taizé. 3rd Friday of the month - September 18, October 16, November 20, 2026 - at 6:00 pm.



UVic Food Insecurity Project: Collections for Back to School

School is back in session! The SEJC is asking for food donations for UVic students in need. Items donated in August, will be delivered to students in September at the Multi-Faith Centre. The green donation bins are back in the foyer. This month's theme is canned fish, meat, beans, pasta or sauce.

7th Annual Mass for Our Lady of Penafrancia

You're invited to celebrate the The Penafrancia Festival to honour Our Lady of Penafrancia on Sept. 12 at St Patrick's Parish. Join for a Rosary at 10am, Mass at 11am, and potluck lunch at 12pm.. Everyone is welcome.

Monthly Mixed Social Bridge

Another year of Sunday Bridge is planned at Holy Cross for the first Sunday of each month. The emphasis is social bridge in a relaxed atmosphere. If you have any questions please contact Tony Southwell at 250-882-8695 / tony_southwell@hotmail.com. Inquiries from members of any Parish in the Diocese are welcome.

Nepal Flooding Relief Efforts - To learn more about what D&P are doing to help and to donate visit:

<https://devp.org/en/nepal-floods-necessitate-a-deluge-of-solidarity/>

Colombia Earthquake Relief Efforts - To learn more about what D&P are doing to help and to donate visit:

<https://devp.org/en/colombia-earthquake-how-to-help/>

NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY

1. Beloved Catholic Women's Retreat 2026 - Women are invited to the 8th Annual Beloved Catholic Women's Retreat, taking place November 13 to 15 at beautiful Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. This year's theme, *Mysterium: Behold the Lamb of God*, welcomes guest speaker Sr. Damien Marie of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. Enjoy a weekend of teaching, prayer, worship, and joyful fellowship. Registration opens Saturday, September 12 at 9:00am. <https://www.belovedvi.com/>

2. Voices in Motion Choir: Seeking New Members Voices in Motion is seeking new choir members for the upcoming season. This unique intergenerational choir welcomes people living with memory loss and their caregivers to enjoy singing, socializing, and building community together. No singing experience is required. For more information or to register, visit <https://voicesinmotionchoirs.org/>

3. Registration for the Good Shepherd Catechesis Program at St Joesph School's Early Learning Centre ends this Sunday, September 13th. Children age 3-6 are welcomed into this program. Saturday Sessions will start on September 26th. 2 sessions are available: 9:30AM -11:30AM or 1PM-3PM. General Entry Fee is 50 dollars. Spots are limited, a waitlist will be created to accommodate the demand. To register, complete this form: <https://forms.gle/EtdzEMcS5yVeksHz>

4. World Youth Day Pilgrimage Registration Opens Official registration begins **Monday, September 14** for the RCD Victoria World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea in 2027. On September 14, you will be able to register your **non-refundable** \$500 deposit to secure your spot on the pilgrimage. Find info to register and put down your deposit at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/wyd-2027>

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.

COLLECTIONS

September 6, 2026

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$4,165.00
Loose	\$ 385.00
Electronic Giving	<u>\$1,723.34</u>
Total	\$6,273.34

Thank you

After every Sunday 9:00 am mass a committed and joyful team of volunteers serve coffee and tea, providing our parish with social time, a chance to share ideas, catch up on family news and discuss the happenings in the world. We all appreciate their continual service. This team is willing to serve whatever treats somebody has brought in, and are always ready to make more coffee if we are celebrating a special event such as the installation of our new Pastor Erik. After everyone has left they do the dishes and put everything away. Thank you Coffee Makers, we really appreciate your gift to our community.

HOLY CROSS PARISH OFFICE

250-477-5321
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.

CONTACT US

Pastor: Father Erik Oland SJ
eoland@rcdvictoria.org
Pastoral Associate: Tanya Taft
ttaft@rcdvictoria.org
Administrative Assistant: Sloane Secord
holycrossvictoria@rcdvictoria.org
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries & RMSE: Joanie Bidlake
holycross-assistant@rcdvictoria.org
Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis
Pastoral Care Outreach Team Coordinator: Mary-Anne Tinney
mtinney@shaw.ca
UVic & Camosun Chaplain: Father David Shulist SJ
dshulist@rcdvictoria.org
Hospital Emergency Chaplain: Father Sean Flynn / 250-889-3761