

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH

## THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

April 20, 2025

### OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

**FRIDAY, April 18**

3PM GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE

6PM GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE: Saint Charbel  
Lebanese Catholic  
Community

**SATURDAY, April 19**

6PM EASTER VIGIL  
Saint Charbel Lebanese  
Catholic Community

**SUNDAY, April 20**

9AM EASTER MASS  
11AM EASTER MASS

**TUESDAY, April 22**

9AM MASS: Eileen Nevel+

**THURSDAY, April 24**

9AM MASS: Alastair  
MacIsaac+

—

CHAPEL

Open 9am-12pm

**TUESDAY &  
WEDNESDAY**

RECONCILIATION

No  
scheduled events.

Today, we begin our journey in discovering who Jesus truly is. Although Christ had told his disciples he would be raised on the third day after his death, his empty tomb on the morning of that day came as a shock. At first no one knew what to make of it. Had the body been stolen? They had to run to the tomb to see for themselves. At the tomb Mary Magdalene was confused, frightened—the stone had been rolled away. When he arrived, Peter was amazed. Jesus came again and again to those who loved him. He didn't appear to Pilate or Herod. He came to those who loved him, to those who believed in him. They met in Galilee, home territory, familiar places, where the disciples would be comfortable. He came again and again reassuring them until they really believed it had happened: Jesus had risen from the dead. It is much the same in our lives. He comes often to those who seek the truth, to those who long for him, and just like the disciples we, too, grow in love and understanding.

This is the Easter message, that awakening is possible, to the goodness of God, the sacredness of human life, the sisterhood and brotherhood of all. Easter Day begins an octave, eight days that remind us that every day is Easter and that we are a people of the Resurrection who believe in love, joy, forgiveness, and life in all forms—including the eternal variety. Show that you believe in what the risen Christ stands for by doling out love, mercy, and kindness in generous portions these eight days and beyond. If we are open and attentive, we will meet the Lord again and again just as the first disciples did in the experiences of life. Rejoice in it! As disciples go out and tell the whole world. Let your world know by your words and actions that you have seen him; that he lives! And in that telling you can be amazed just as Peter was because you will meet him again.

The resurrection faith is all about not discounting the possibility that God can make new men and women of us. Let me restate that: the resurrection faith is all about counting on and trusting in the fact that God makes us into new women and men. We remember. We celebrate. We believe. That is why we gather on Easter morning, and why we pray at all, and why we join a church, and are the church. If we only *remembered* Jesus, and mourned him like a lost champion, we might set up a memorial in his honor but would soon forget him. If we merely *celebrated* his presence now, we might become cultists behind sacred walls who engage in our deep holy rites and abandon the world to its fate. If we simply *believed* in salvation for tomorrow, we'd put away religion as pie-in-the-sky for when we die and worry about that when the time comes. Because Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the news is always good. And you and I have something to sing about.

Easter joy,  
Fr. William



*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://RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry)  
or call 1-800-968-3146.

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## Holy Cross Parish's Easter Mass Schedule

- April 18, 2025 - Good Friday - 3pm
- April 18, 2025 - Good Friday - 6pm (Saint Charbel Lebanese Catholic Community)
- April 19, 2025 - Easter Vigil - 6pm (Saint Charbel Lebanese Catholic Community)
- April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday - 9am & 11am Mass

Find other parishes services here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-lent-easter-mass-times>



## Tuesday Morning Men's Group Invites New Member!

Starting April 22nd at 9:30 AM, the Tuesday Morning Men's Group will begin a new video series: "Jesus and the Gospels" by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. The group will meet every Tuesday morning for this 36-lecture series. Each session will be followed by coffee and discussion.

## Victoria Diocese Family Camp & Conference

Families from across the Diocese of Victoria are invited to a weekend of fun, faith, and fellowship at the beautiful Nanoose Bay Camp! Enjoy time together in a scenic West Coast setting, with options for dorms, tents, or RV camping. Price includes meals, activities, and your choice of accommodation. Come to grow in faith, strengthen family bonds, and connect with other families.

- When & Where: August 22-24, 2025 | Nanoose Bay Camp  
Register at: [11thAnnualVictoriaDioceseFamilyCampandConference.eventbrite.ca](https://11thAnnualVictoriaDioceseFamilyCampandConference.eventbrite.ca) (Early Bird Pricing Ends May 4, 2025)

For more details, email: [familycamp@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:familycamp@rcdvictoria.org)

## Almost last call for baskets and plants for MT. ST. Mary Hospital.

Six pack of lettuce ready to plant, same with hardy African Daisies. Geraniums (5 colours) are \$5 and tomatoes (large and cherry) at \$4 and baskets \$50. Baskets are coming into bloom nicely and ready for Mother's Day. Green and yellow zucchini, and BEST OF ALL FREE PUMKINS for younger family members. Please call to order: 250-477-6754



*Thanks in advance for your continued support for the Hospital*

## March for Life Dinner - Thursday, May 8th

All are invited to attend the **Annual March for Life Dinner** on **Thursday, May 8th** at **St. Joseph the Worker Parish** (753 Burnside Rd W, Victoria).

- **Doors Open:** 5:00 PM
- **Guest Speaker:** Gabrielle Raymond (CCO) - more speakers to be announced
- **Cost:** \$55 per person
- **Ticket Deadline:** April 24th

To reserve tickets, please contact **Bro. Gary Skabeikis** at: [garys235@outlook.com](mailto:garys235@outlook.com), Cash or cheque (payable to *Knights of Columbus Council 13356*)

Tickets can be delivered to the parish office by **Grand Knight Bro. Michael O'Rielly**, or picked up at the door. *Note: cancellations after April 24th still expect payment.*



## Thank you to Holy Cross Parishioners

A sincere thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to the Easter floral display. May you and your families be blessed during this Easter season. *Gratefully yours, the Floral Ministry.*

### QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK:

The greatest of all is Easter Day, the day of the Lord's Resurrection, because today assurance was given to us to obtain eternal and immortal life in soul and body.

— *Saint Vincent Ferrer*

Easter reminds us that God's love is stronger than any suffering or darkness we may encounter.

— *Saint Padre Pio*



### LIVESTREAMING

#### HOLY THURSDAY 7PM

[https://youtube.com/live/PHCvNRoE\\_RA?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/PHCvNRoE_RA?feature=share)

#### GOOD FRIDAY HC 3PM

<https://youtube.com/live/qC3VwbdcPds?feature=share>

#### EASTER SUNDAY 11AM

<https://youtube.com/live/8EEWubUHLdE?feature=share>

### St. Andrew's High School: How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery

St. Andrew's High School is performing, "How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery" from April 24-26. Tickets are available on Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrews-high-school-presents-how-to-get-away-with-a-murder-mystery-tickets-1230782947929](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrews-high-school-presents-how-to-get-away-with-a-murder-mystery-tickets-1230782947929)

### Pray for the Catechumens Celebrating Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St Pat's

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children ready to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. May they walk forward, cleansed of sin, embraced and loved by the Father. Come Holy Spirit and rest upon them - the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, reverence, and fear of the LORD. Lord Jesus, welcome them to your sacred table to nourish their bodies and souls with Yourself, true Bread of eternal life. Amen.

Please welcome the newest member of the Body of Christ who will celebrate all the sacraments of Initiation on Saturday April 19, 2025 at the sunset Easter Vigil Mass at St Patrick's. Reception of cake and tea to follow in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall.

Thank you for keeping the children of St Patrick's and Holy Cross in your prayers!

### International Pipe Organ Day!

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, 1-3pm across the city at various locations. Attendees are encouraged to play the pipe organ to help Victoria become the Pipe Organ Capital of Canada by setting a record for the most people playing a pipe organ that day! A friendly organist will share their knowledge and raise awareness of the pipe organ, its music and the Royal Canadian College of Organists training programs and scholarships. This is a FREE event, so bring your kids or grandkids to create some awesome sounds! For more information on the locations of the event, please visit [www.rcco-victoria.org](http://www.rcco-victoria.org)



### Talize Prayer

All are invited to come pray in the style of Taize resumes for spring at Broad View United Church, 3703 St Aidans Street, 6pm on Friday, April, April 26 (4th Friday), and the 3rd Fridays of May and June, May 16, and June 20. 'Feeling we are not alone can strengthen our life.' [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Office hours are changing over the next week for holidays and vacation:

- Friday, April 18 - Closed
- Thursday, April 24 (Open 8:30-11am)
- Friday, April 25 - Closed

# NEWS FROM THE CHANCERY & ICS

1) Funeral arrangements for Gwen Jahelka, Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, have now been confirmed. Vigil prayers will be held at St. Joseph's Church in Chemainus (9727 Elm Street) on Sunday, April 20 at 4:30 pm. Gwen's funeral Mass will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria (740 View St) on Monday, April 21 at 10:30 am. A reception will follow at St. Andrew's High School in Victoria (880 McKenzie Ave). The Mass will be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxNiqiQIVC0> for those who cannot attend in person.

2) Bishop Gary Gordon has written a message to the people of the Diocese of Victoria on the occasion of Easter 2025. The message may be read online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-for-easter-2025>. A copy of his letter is also attached to this email to share with your communities.

3) Bishop William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, has recorded a video message for Easter 2025. The video can be viewed here: [https://youtu.be/-Coxb0q\\_aAY](https://youtu.be/-Coxb0q_aAY)

4) St. Patrick's Parish is hosting the Arbutus Singers on April 29th at 7:30 pm for a concert. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from July at 250-384-2840; proceeds support the Choir Kids program. Please see the attached poster for more details.

5) The Anawim Companions Society is looking for a volunteer to support donor relations. The role involves approximately 3-4 hours per week and includes a mix of on-site and remote activities. Please see the attached role description for more information.

## THANK YOU BOX

*Thank you to all the many helpers, contributors and volunteers who are supporting the Holy Week and Easter masses. This has truly been a collective effort! Thank you especially to Fr. Marc Parent and Bishop Gary Gordon for offering to celebrate these wonderful services for the Holy Cross Parish! We appreciate you.*



## COLLECTIONS

**April 13, 2025**

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$2,050.00
Loose	\$ 497.00
ShareLent D&P	\$ 240.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 140.00
Anawim for Men	\$ 10.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,307.91
Total	\$4,244.91

## CONTACT US

**Pastor:** Vacant

**Executive Team:** Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar & David Begg

**Administrative Assistant:** Sloane Secord

250-477-5321 / [office@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:office@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Office Assistant:** Joanie Bidlake

250-477-5321 / [officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org](mailto:officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org)

**Hospital Emergency Chaplain:** Fr. Sean Flynn

250-889-3761

## OFFICE HOURS

**Saturday, Sunday, Monday:** Closed

**Tuesday-Friday:** 8:30am-3:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC V8N 3X7

[www.holycrossvictoria.org](http://www.holycrossvictoria.org)

250-477-5321

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays:** 9AM

**Saturday** 4PM

**Sunday:** 9AM





# Catholic Diocese of Victoria

*Office of the Bishop*

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 - Tel: 250-479-1331 - Fax: 250-479-5423 - Web: [redvictoria.org](http://redvictoria.org)

*Easter 2025*

Dear people of the Diocese of Victoria,

Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus is risen; Easter has arrived and brought us through Lent.

Our Lenten journey of persistent hope brings us to a new beginning of life in Christ and a new conversation beyond the tired and failed words of battle, war, and victory.

Indeed, these past 40 days of Lent has brought us through new deserts of the age-old temptations which Jesus himself found in the wilderness—consumption (turn these stones into bread), conquering (the kingdoms of the world will be yours), and control (do not put the Lord to the test).

These tired temptations will always give the illusion of a prosperous life and security, but true freedom—new and eternal life—comes only through the Crosses of Humility, Dialogue, and Peace.

“Do not be afraid.” (Matthew 10:26, 10:28, 10:31, 14:27, 17:7, 28:10; Mark 5:36, 6:50; Luke 5:10, 8:50, 12:7, 12:32, John 6:30, 14:27) These words, spoken by Jesus time and again throughout the Gospels, are not just a reassurance but a call to trust in Him, even in times of uncertainty. Fear can hold us back, but Christ’s resurrection is the ultimate sign that hope prevails.

Today, as we hear the Easter Proclamation, this message takes on a new urgency for God’s people in this Year of a Jubilee of Hope. We are invited to embrace courage, to live as people of faith, and to be bearers of Christ’s hope in a world that longs for renewal.

*Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King’s triumph!*

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, may our hearts burn within us as Christ speaks to us. In recognizing Him, the disciples turned back to Jerusalem—not with resigned bitterness, resentment, or regret, but transformed by their encounter with the Risen Christ. Nourished by His life of hope, they returned with a desire to share that hope with all people.

Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem bearing hope, I invite you to bring hope to others by joyfully living and serving as witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection. In a world weighed down by uncertainty, division, and despair, we are called to be messengers of resurrection joy and help turn fear into faith. It is this quiet work of love that expands and transforms, making space for new life.

This Easter season, may we all hear and accept the words of Christ: “Do not be afraid.” Let us be signs of hope, reminding the world that death and fear do not have the final word—love and faith do.

In the peace of Christ, Happy Easter.

Most Reverend Gary Gordon  
Bishop of Victoria