



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Mission Statement: Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

Rooted in the community of Gordon Head and the University, in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Cross Parish serves the people of God by sharing, teaching and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY - January 24, 2021 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the beginning, Jesus announces that here and now is the time of fulfillment, and the kingdom of God is at hand. In case anyone is wondering how to respond to that idea, Jesus is helpfully frank: "*Repent, and believe in the gospel.*" Some repented, we may suppose, while others believed, and a few did both. But almost no one repented enough and believed enough, as it turned out. If they had, there would have been throngs at Calvary, and the crucifixion may have been difficult to carry out. But before we get to thinking that repentance and faith are rare and difficult things to achieve, let us look further into the reading and be grateful we have such a forgiving and merciful God.

In Scripture today, Jesus walks past some fishermen just offshore, the brothers Simon and Andrew, who are casting their nets with their mundane daily hope of a catch. Jesus likes their plodding fidelity to their task and the fact that each time they throw a net, they must believe the fish might be caught. That kind of faith and hope are great attributes in a disciple, but do they have the capacity to make the grand U-turn? Jesus says, "Come after me," and they abandoned their nets without hesitation. Jesus would spend the next three years teaching his followers how to be disciples. He did not have time for elaborate explanations there on the beach, only a few moments to ask them to turn their lives around and move in a new direction. The capacity to interrupt our lives long enough to accept the invitation with conscious intent is crucial to calling ourselves by the name Christian. We also must embrace the responsibility to turn, and turn again when necessary, so that we are always facing the direction that Jesus is headed.

My friends, we hear Jesus' invitation "Come follow me," each day as life presents us with choices. Shall we forgive when asked? Shall we help someone in need? Shall we buy less for ourselves and give more to the poor? Shall we see injustice or turn a blind eye? In these, and so many other occasions, we hear the same invitation Jesus made to those fishermen and like them, we put considerations aside to follow him. We need to be mindful of our words and actions. We must encourage each other to always use words that nurture and gestures which heal. If we act out of compassion rather than indifference, out of understanding rather than disdain, out of kindness rather than selfishness, we will indeed bring about the fullness of the kingdom of God. Discipleship requires a certain amount of flexibility after all. Discipleship demands the prerequisite of conversion, and the only part of us that must be broken in conversion is our hearts. Frederick Buechner writes: "*the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.*"

Find that place and go set the world on fire

Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:30pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:00pm

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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Effective Immediately: As per the latest health protocols given to us by our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, all in-person faith gatherings have been suspended until February 5th. That means all weekend and weekday Masses at Holy Cross have been cancelled. The office will remain open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm, but masks are mandatory before entering. The Church will be open Tues.-Fri. from 9am-1pm for private prayer; please sit on chairs on left side only. Thank You!

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is being celebrated this week from January 18-25, 2021. The theme for this year is: **“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”** (John 15:5-9). Local and international resources are available online, placing a particular emphasis on the call to pray and work for reconciliation and unity in the Church, with our human family, and with all of creation.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches jointly developed the international resource with the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common vocation of prayer, community life and hospitality and by their commitment to Christian unity. The material for Canada was adapted and produced by an ecumenical writing team coordinated by the Commission on Faith and Witness of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC).

Bishop Gary Gordon participated in a special recorded joint service with our regional ecumenical colleagues in the Anglican Church of Canada, and the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. We are grateful to the Communications team at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, who shared their resources and taped the remote service for the benefit of all. **The recorded service in our Diocese may be accessed via the link: <https://vimeo.com/501039459>**

The Vatican website is offering a daily reflection and further resources may be accessed via: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-01/bible-reflections-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-day-1.html> *May we continue the grow in faith and understanding of the commandment to “love one another as I have loved you” as we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.*

EXPLORE POPE FRANCIS' SOCIAL ENCYCLICAL, FRATELLI Tutti

In "**Fratelli tutti**" Pope Francis underlines that in our common home we all live as one family, and proposes concrete actions to restore the world. **Every Thursday beginning February 18th from 7:30-8:30pm via a Zoom Webinar** we will break open this transforming document which will help us envision how to live in social friendship in our parishes, our schools, our communities, our diocese and in our world. During this Lenten series, Diocesan Leaders will creatively break open "Fratelli Tutti" for all.

Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cP_ElltThCp9uUIQncMDA After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. **5 copies of Fratelli Tutti are available in the parish library to borrow.*

Congratulations to our very own Margaret McDonnell, who turned 90 years old on January 17th! Marg is a long time member and volunteer of our community. She is involved in many things, including the laundry ministry (someone has to wash the Altar linens!), the bulletin folding committee, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and many other aspects of our parish life. Wishing Marg all the best on this momentous occasion!

THANK YOU CORNER

Thank you to Ann and Bob Francis, and Marian and David Duke who were responsible for the design, set up, decorating, lighting, and eventual take down and clean up of the Christmas décor in the church this year. It was a lot of work, but it brought so much light and joy to the parishioners who came to enjoy it, or enjoyed it online. We are grateful for our hard working flower ministry, for bringing beauty to this difficult time.

PRAYER REFLECTION

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. —Frederick Buechner

Repentance is not an emotion. It is not feeling sorry for your sins. It is a decision. It is deciding that you have been wrong in supposing that you could manage your own life and be your own god. —Eugene Peterson

A NOTE FROM THE DIOCESE

To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

SUNDAY 10 AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7 PM

Diocesan BLOG: The “Sunday of the Word of God” held yearly every third Sunday of Ordinary Time, in accordance with Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter Motu Proprio, *Aperuit Illis* will be celebrated on January 24, 2021. This presents an opportunity to recognize the important role of the Word of God in our lives and in the life of the Church.

Bishop Gary Gordon has written a Pastoral Letter highlighting the importance of Sacred Scripture in our lives. Please find the letter here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/diocesanblog/sunday-of-the-word-of-God>

CONTACT TRACING

We have new contact tracing forms in the church foyer as well as the office. Anyone entering the church or the office now has to sign in. This allows us to be able to contact you if there has been someone that has used the space that has come into contact with COVID-19. We would only contact you if there was such a need. This is an extra safety guard we are implementing to help keep people in our community safe. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this Saturday! Mass will be broadcast from **Holy Cross Parish on Saturday, January 23rd at 4pm on the YouTube page.** Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

A REASON TO SMILE FROM ST. PAT'S SCHOOL

Poetry is a lense into the heart. This week Mrs. Wark’s Grade 5 students are sharing some of their *I AM* poetry. The words of our youth are quite inspiring and impactful.

<https://www.facebook.com/St.PatricksSchool/posts/4005381149524648>



OUR LITURGICAL LIFE:

SATURDAY, January 23rd

No Mass

SUNDAY, January 24th

No Mass

MONDAY, January 25th

Office Closed/No Mass

TUESDAY, January 26th

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, January 27th

No Mass

THURSDAY, January 28th

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 29th

No Mass

Please note that until February 5th all Masses will be temporarily suspended. Father William will continue to live-stream one Mass per week.

The church will be open for private prayer from 9am-1pm from Tuesday to Friday. Please sit only on the chairs on the left side of the church at this time, to make cleaning easier for our custodians.

Thank you!

Masks are now mandatory in the church and parish centre at all times.

****There are still 2021 calendars from Catholic Missions in Canada available, and the collection envelopes are ready for pick up!**



holy cross church garden head rd. victoria, b.c.

COLLECTION for January 16, 2021
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

Envelopes	\$1,070.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$1,372.00
TOTAL	\$2,442.00