



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 March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this is for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me". When he said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

When I read this I wondered, what happened next? What would have Lazarus been thinking when he came out of the tomb?

Lazarus: How differently I lived from that day on! It was like a fog had lifted and I could see everything clearly. I wasn't anxious for praise and acceptance and recognition anymore, because I finally realized how fleeting such things were. I thought less about myself and my problems, because I knew so clearly how God was holding me in the palm of his hand. I was so free! I was free from the fears that made me hesitate to speak to everyone about Jesus. When he called my name and drew me out of the tomb, it was really a brand new start, a new life. And he's willing to do the same for everyone, if only they will take the first step towards the opening of the tomb. (The Better Part, John Bartunek)

This year our Lenten journey has been one like no other. It has been a time of time of reflection, repentance and renewal of life. But not in the usual ways in which we have come to know. Instead of celebrating Mass together, attending Lenten Missions or partaking in any of the usual parish activities, we are being asked to isolate ourselves from friends and family and to keep a prescribed physical distance from others when out of our homes. We are living in extraordinary and uncertain times. We are not sure how long the pandemic will last and when we will be able to get back to "normal". What hasn't changed is God's love for us. We see the glory of God in the beauty of the world around us and in our acts of kindness during this time of crisis in our country and in the world. Countries are coming together to work on a cure for the virus and to flatten the curve and help to bring this pandemic to an end. We may have to keep our social distance from people, but God is not socially distanced from us. We are not alone. He is still right beside us and Jesus is in our hearts.

Our Lenten path has taken a detour but we are still on the right track. Social distancing and isolating oneself doesn't mean we have to stop being social or that we have to be alone. In fact, I think that we are making more of an effort to connect with others now more than ever before. Through on-line social networks, email and phone we are connecting with family and community. Friends and neighbours are providing services and checking in with one another. We can still stand shoulder to shoulder to support each other. The pandemic will not last forever and when it is over, and we are able to come out of our tombs, how will we be changed by this experience? Will we hear the voice of Jesus telling us to "come out"? We can have a renewed appreciation for all that we have and all that we may have taken for granted.

God is love and all who live in love, live in God.

Journeying with you,

Debby Pietraszek

OFFICE HOURS

Open for phone and email Tuesday to Friday

Fr. William Hann, Pastor

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A NOTE ON GIVING

We know that Covid-19 and the resulting economic slow down has effected many of you personally. Given that financial uncertainty is greater than ever we understand that some of you will no longer be able to give to the parish at your regular level and those on automatic debit may need to cancel their contributions. If you need to cancel or change your automatic payments, please contact the parish office at (250-477-5321) or email us at office@holycrossvictoria.org

In addition, to make it convenient for those that are able to contribute there are new online and remote options now available:

- Online through Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/register/tier-two/>
- Automatic Debit (PAD)
- E-transfers and credit cards (e-transfers can be made to the following email: developmentoffice@rcdvictoria.org—please be sure to include your name and parish in the e-transfer message).

We are very grateful that you are part of our Catholic parish family. May God bless you and your families.

EASTER MASS IN OUR DIOCESE

Bishop Gary Gordon desires to remain close to the People of God during this difficult time, and we are arranging to have the Triduum livestreamed to allow parishioners in the Diocese to join him remotely from their homes. The location from which he will livestream has not yet been determined and details regarding how to connect etc. will be made known as we approach those special days. We will continue to keep you informed as details become available.

Please note that the Paschal Triduum will be livestreamed on:

Holy Thursday @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday @ 3:00 pm

Easter Vigil @ 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday @ 11:00 am



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

COLLECTION for March 22, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 960.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Debit | \$ 1,025.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 1,785.00 |

SCAM ALERT

There is another scam going around via email, using Fr. William's name and asking for money. Please always check the email address on these emails carefully. If it is strange or unfamiliar please disregard immediately. More important please know that Fr. William has never, would never and will never ask for gifts or money from his parishioners. When in doubt call or email the office for clarification. Thank you.

TELEVISED MASS

Salt + Light TV has made arrangements with cable companies across Canada (Rogers, Bell, Telus, Shaw Direct, Videotron) to make **Salt + Light TV** available free of charge to all subscribers until May 1, 2020. Anyone who subscribes to Cable TV will be able to access **Salt + Light TV**, and therefore to tune in for the *Daily TV Mass*, and *Sunday TV Mass*, produced by the National Catholic Broadcasting Council.

Salt + Light TV is also televising the daily Mass at 9:00am celebrated by Pope Francis from Casa Santa Marta. "La Messe du jour" produced and televised by **Salt + Light TV** from the crypt at Saint Joseph Oratory in Montreal will now be televised on Sundays, enabling everyone access to the televised Mass in both French and English seven days a week.

The channel number for each cable company that carries **Salt + Light TV** can be found at <https://saltandlighttv.org/subscribe>. **Please note** that the *Daily TV Mass* is also available on other faith-based television networks besides. This information can be found at <https://dailytvmass.com/about/broadcast-schedule/>

Remember to check the website for the latest updates and memos from the Bishop of Victoria, and our Pastor: www.holycrossvictoria.org