

Communitas

April 2026

RCDV Catechists' Newsletter



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

At a Glance



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Heavenly Father,

*As Easter morning dawns, we give great
thanks for the joy of the Risen Christ!*

*May the Resurrection of Jesus
usher in a beautiful, new beginning for us
as we linger in the joy
of the season of Easter.*

*Let us be transformed, O Lord!
Guide us we pray, that we may seek to be
enveloped by this deep joy!*

*May our thoughts, words, and actions
shine with your light that cannot fade,
as we model our joyful hope in you!*

Amen



Territory Acknowledgement

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria
acknowledges with gratitude
that we work, play, and pray
on the territories and traditional lands
of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and
Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples.

In the light of this truth, and in humility,
we commit ourselves to continue to work
for reconciliation,
and for respectful relationships
with the Creator
and all creation.



April Liturgical Calendar

- 1 Wednesday of Holy Week**
- 2 Thursday of Holy Week**
- 3 Friday of the Passion of the Lord**
- 4 Holy Saturday**
- 5 The Resurrection of the Lord**
- 3-12 Easter Octave**
- 12 2nd Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy**
- 13 Easter Season**
- 17 St. Kateri Tekakwitha (M)**
- 19 3rd Sunday of Easter**
- 25 St Mark (Feast Day)**
- 26 4th Sunday of Easter**
- 29 St. Catherine of Siena**
- 30 St. Marie de L'Incarnation (M)**

Eastertide - The Season of Easter



*The Easter season is 50 days long,
and a most sacred time of the year
for continuing to celebrate
Jesus' victory over sin and death.*

*Here are a few simple ways
to help live out the eight weeks of Easter from :*

- Be joyful & cheerful*
- Celebrate as a family*
- Pick up a spiritual book*
- Maintain spiritual devotions*
- Follow faith-filled sources on social media*
- Give to charity*
- Turn to the Holy Spirit in prayer*
- Befriend a saint through prayer
and read about him or her*

*Of course, none of these actions make us holy,
but they allow the Lord to enter our lives so he can make us holy.*

*Through simple additions to our day,
Easter can be a time of growing closer to Jesus Christ.*

We are Easter People!



Easter is not just one day for Christians.

*We get to savour the joy during the
season of Easter!*

*What habits of joy or habits of cheerfulness
might we consider?*

Consider resolutions of Faith, hope, joy!

From Psalm 33

*Let your steadfast love, O Lord,
be upon us even as we hope in you.*





***Our Easter call is to be
witnesses of the Resurrection!***

***“We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is
our song.” St. Augustine***

***“We live in the light of his Paschal Mystery,
the mystery of his death and Resurrection.
We are an Ester people and Alleluia is our
song. We are not looking for a shallow joy,
but rather a joy that comes from faith.”
St. John Paull II***

***“I have seen the Lord!”
Mary Magdelene***



Resources for Easter

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260405-pasqua.html>

<https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/message-for-easter-2026-from-the-most-rev-pierre-goudreault-bishop-of-sainte-anne-de-la-pocatiere-president-of-the-canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6npaUmvojI>

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/hubfs/Bishops%20Letter%20for%20Easter%202026.pdf>

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/easter/>

Resources for Easter

From Hallow



Easter Music



Easter Chant Night Pr...
Source & Summit
7 sessions



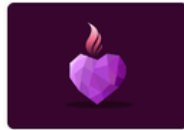
Damascus Worship
Songs of Praise
6 sessions



The London Sessions
Sarah Kroger
6 sessions



The Porter's Gate
Songs of Peace
49 sessions



RC Music Collective
Contemplative Worship
8 sessions



Songs of Surrender
Matt Maher
6 sessions



Adoration, Vol. I
Matt Maher
5 sessions

Easter Prayers



Christians, To the Pas...
Source & Summit: Easter Sunday
2 min



Mary Magdalene
Saints in 7 Days
122K joined



Daily Contemplation
Fr. Timothy Gallagher
90 sessions



Daily Fr. Mike
Minute Homilies
298 sessions



21 Days to Interior Fre...
St. Miriam & Fr. John Burns
✓ 252K joined



Healing Wounds
Dr. Bob & St. Miriam
9 sessions



Healthy Habits
St. Josephine Garrett
8 sessions

Easter Music



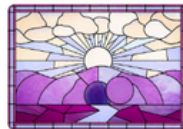
Easter Praylist
Celebrate the Season
87 sessions



Easter Lofi
Hallow Praylist
20 sessions



Easter Renaissance
Alonso Lobo
10 sessions



Hymns, Vol. 2: Easter
Sarah Kroger
5 sessions



Easter at Ephesus
Benedictines of Mary
27 sessions



Triduum Hymns
Emmet Cahill
4 sessions



Lent & Easter Chant
St. Meinrad Archabbey
24 sessions

Easter Prayers



Daily Miracle
Miracles Stories
74 sessions



30 Days of Inspiration
Fr. Pete McCormick
30 sessions



Sung Divine Mercy
Sarah Kroger
21 min



Easter with Acts
Dr. Hahn & Jonathan Rounie
✓ 135K joined



Divine Mercy
Divine Mercy Chaplet
7 sessions



The Resurrection
Laura Kelly Fanucci
30 min



Christians, To the Pas...
Source & Summit: Easter Sunday
2 min

<https://hallow.com/collections/2037>

He Is Risen

251K praying 5 days left

Easter Challenge

Join Challenge

Details

Litany for Easter



Leader:

Risen Christ, whose dawn scatters the shadows,

People:

Shine upon us with the light that cannot fade.

Leader:

You rolled away the stone and broke the seal of death,

People:

Roll away the stones that seal our hearts.

Leader:

You met the women in the garden with joy,

People:

Meet us in the places where we least expect You.

Leader:

You walked the road with the weary and the doubtful,

People:

Walk with us in our questions and our fears.

Leader:

You breathed peace into the locked room,

People:

Breathe peace into our restless souls.

Leader:

You prepared a meal for the hungry by the shore,

People:

Feed us with the bread of life and the wine of gladness.

Leader:

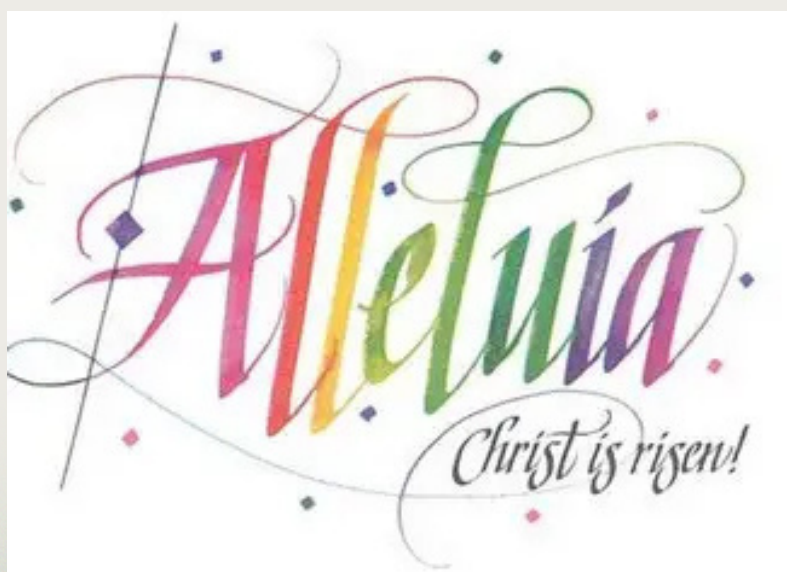
You ascended in blessing, yet remain with us always,

People:

*Keep us steadfast in hope
until the day we see You face to face.*

All:

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***



Radiant Lives



St. Kateri Tekakwitha

April 17

<https://www.cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/prayer-and-spirituality/saint-kateri-tekakwitha/>

<https://nationalsaintkaterishrine.ca/read-more-about-saint-kateri/>



Radiant Lives



St. Catherine of Siena

April 29

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni_hj_oQZsU)

[v=Ni_hj_oQZsU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni_hj_oQZsU)

<https://www.siena.org/>





Forming Children & Youth for The Mass

From Loyola Press

By Joyce Donahue MA, MPS,
Liturgical catechist and former diocesan
administrator





Song & Praise

Part 2 in a series about forming children for active participation in the Mass from Loyola Press

Catechists can encourage children and youth to participate in the Mass by helping them become comfortable with singing and sung prayer and praise. Age-appropriate music should be a regular element in every catechetical session. Most textbook series come with grade-level music or recommendations of common hymns we sing at Mass. That's a place to start.

Certainly, children should be taught to sing songs the parish community uses at Mass, whether their community's musical style is traditional or contemporary. Ask the parish music director for something the parish will be singing in the upcoming weeks, and help children learn it. If there is to be a special Mass during session time, have catechists rehearse the music with children ahead of time, and make sure each catechist knows that during Mass, every child should open the hymnal and sing.



Song & Praise

If parish musicians are not available, find resources in the catechist community: a catechist who is musical or has a family member who sings or plays an instrument. Live music is best because it shows children that real people make music - not just rock stars - and it shows them that the proper response to music is to join in, not just to listen passively.

As a DRE I planned frequent music session for the last 15 minutes of class, in which children rehearsed music for Mass or were taught simple, fun praise songs - and sometimes movements to go with them.

One of the favorites was “Awesome God”, which has a popular and well-known set of motions. The children also loved “They’ll Know We Are Christians” and “Lead Me, Lord”, both of which they sang with great gusto.



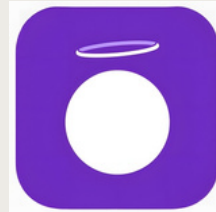
Song & Praise

What does all of this do? Musical training in the catechetical session conditions children and youth to make a joyful noise to God. It helps them understand that singing to God is natural and enjoyable, and it shows them that God is worthy of praise. It helps children understand why at Mass we say “It is right and just”, to praise God. It helps them overcome the fear of singing in public by showing them that even if they think they “can’t sing”, God wants to hear their voices thanking God for his blessings.

The video, “We Praise You,” from Australian composer-singer John Burland, demonstrates not only the value of catechetical music and movement, but its lyrics teach children why they should sing to the Lord.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O XKOMmG ubI>

Hallow App for all RCDV Catechists



For the second year in a 3-year partnership, we are very pleased to gift all Catechists with a one-year subscription to the Hallow app!

During the Easter season of JOY,
you are invited to join the following challenges:

He Is Risen

The Empty Tomb

Login credentials:

Username: Your email

Password: hallowed

Did you know?

You can customize your experience!

Click the setting icon 2nd from the left at bottom of screen to add background music, choose your guide, change playback speed.

Click the book icon to read along with the text.



Project YM

Take advantage of our one-year partnership
with Project YM
for all Youth Ministers/Catechists/Leaders
in the Diocese of Victoria!

How to login

<https://thriveinvite.com/victoriaBC>

*Check out this great platform for communicating with
other Youth Leaders and Sharing of Resources!*





Signs of Grace Approved Program for Preparation for the Sacraments in the Diocese of Victoria

*A reminder and invitation to all parishes
in the Diocese of Victoria*

By September 2026, all parishes in our diocese will have embraced the approved program for Preparation for the Sacraments, Signs of Grace, from the Augustine Institute.

Kindly contact Joelle Dressler for details on ordering this wonderful resource for your parish.

SIGNS of GRACE
You Are Forgiven

SIGNS of GRACE
You Are Sent

SIGNS of GRACE
You Are Loved



Call for Submissions!

We would love to share your successes!

Please send photos and a brief description
of the amazing activities and events
for children and youth
from your parish community!

jdressler@rcdvictoria.org





Calendar of Events

April 5 - The Resurrection of the Lord

April 3-11 - Easter Octave

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 8 - RCDV Catechists' On-line Gathering 7:00 pm

April 18 - RCDV Catechists' Annual Spring Retreat

Holy Trinity Parish, Nanaimo

May 2 - Illuminate Retreat Gr. 4-7 St. Joseph's School

May 8-10 - DYR Camp Imadene Gr. 7-12

Aug. 20-23 - Diocese of Victoria Family Camp and
Conference, Nanoose Bay

Sept. 26 - Catechists' Fall Retreat (Victoria Venue TBA)

Oct. 23-24 - National Gathering Catechesis of the Good
Shepherd hosted by Diocese of Victoria

St. Patrick's Parish, Victoria

DARE TO

Hope

+ Y R 2026

Join us for a weekend of
faith, fun and friendship!



Grades 7 - 12



May 8 - 10, 2026



Camp Imadene
9175 S Shore Rd, Mesachie Lake, BC



Presented by NET Ministries



Cost: \$199

Youth must provide their own
adult chaperones, through an
RCDV Youth Group or otherwise.

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE 
by April 17



bitly



Diocesan Youth Retreat
Diocese of Victoria

DARE TO

Hope



Illuminate 2026

Join us for an exciting one-day youth retreat!



Grades 4 - 7



Saturday, May 2, 2026



St. Joseph's Elementary School
757 Burnside Rd. West, Victoria, BC



Presented by NET Ministries



Cost: \$75



Register by April 17

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE ↘



billy



Illuminate
Let His Light Shine



The Call to Easter Love



**RCDV Catechists'
Annual Spring Retreat**

**April 18, 2026
Holy Trinity, Nanaimo**

Upcoming Retreats



Catechists' Spring Retreat

Saturday, April 18 Holy Trinity Nanaimo

Free Event! <https://bit.ly/4cdlYcU>

[Deadline to register - 6:00 pm April 10](#)

Illuminate 2026

Saturday, May 2 St. Joseph School Victoria

To Pay: <https://bit.ly/4sx6RCO>

To Register: <https://forms.gle/7SdqDbeRYbvNBLom9>

[Deadline to register - 6:00 pm April 17](#)

DYR 2026

May 8-10 Camp Imadene Mesachie Lake

To Pay: <https://bit.ly/4t4ktFo>

To Register: <https://forms.gle/bm2Xt6TQk9YidccK8>

Chaperones & Volunteers Register for free:

<https://forms.gle/dxFkxc1s4rBVBXcG6>

[Deadline to register - 6:00 pm April 17](#)

Closing Prayer



Heavenly Father,

You have given St. Kateri Tekakwitha
an undivided heart to love you
and make your love known.

Grant us the graces that we need
to imitate her life

so that through her intercession,
our hearts may be better disposed
to seek reconciliation with God,

with others,

with ourselves,

and with creation.

We asks this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.