



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Administration and Finance

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC V8X 2A1 – Tel: (250) 479-1331 – Fax: (250) 479-5423 – Web: rcdvictoria.org

DATE: November 20, 2023
TO: Parishioners, Parishes and Pastors
FROM: Leah MacKenzie, Chief Financial Officer
Re: Gift card and email scams

Recently parishioners have received emails from scammers impersonating their priest, bishop, or key people in the parish.

No priest, nor parish or diocesan employee will ever ask you for a “favour” or to purchase gift cards! The scammers set up a fake email address under the impersonated person’s name. The email appears to be coming from the real person, but upon further scrutiny the scammer is using a different email account. Almost all of these emails are brief and ask for a favour to buy gift cards or send money.

Please act with caution and be prudent when it comes to responding to requests for money, even from someone claiming to be a priest or from individuals within the Church community. Priests and church employees will not request vague favours, payments of gift cards, bitcoin or wire transfers.

All donations for legitimate parish and diocesan activities are made through traditional verifiable methods and are made to the charitable organization, not individuals.

Diocese of Victoria employees and priests have an official @rcdvictoria.org email address and parish emails are well advertised and on their website. The Diocese also uses noreply@myparishcast.com for group email communication.

Before you give money to anyone or any organization; **stop** and talk to a trusted friend or relative to determine the authenticity, appropriateness and validity of the request or call the Diocesan Finance Office 250-479-1331.

If you feel that you have been the victim of a financial scam, you are encouraged to make a report to the police.

Please see the BC government website for a list of common scams and some resources:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/seniors/financial-legal-matters/scams-and-fraud>