



Communitas

June 2026

RCDV Catechists' Newsletter



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

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Heavenly Father,

*O Most Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
We adore You, we love You,
we give You all praise and glory!*

*Father, Creator of all,
guide our steps in Your wisdom.
Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer,
fill our hearts with Your mercy.*

*Holy Spirit, Giver of life,
strengthen us with Your grace.*

*Unite our souls to Your eternal love,
that we may live in faith, hope, and charity,
and reflect Your light to the world.*

*May our lives be a hymn of praise to You,
One God in Three Persons,
forever and ever.*

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.



June Liturgical Calendar

<https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-2026.pdf>

May 31 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

1 St. Justin (M)

3 St. Charles & Companions (M)

5 St. Boniface (M)

7 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of
Christ

11 St. Barnabas (M)

12 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (S)

& World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of
Priests

21 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (S)

28 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

29 Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles (S)



Keeping Pentecost in our Hearts

Pentecost Sunday – Holy Mass (24 May 2026).

Pope Leo prays the Spirit may help build a fraternal world where peace reigns - Vatican News

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-05/pope-leo-xiv-on-solemnity-pentecost-mass-homily-24-may-2026.html>



Pentecost

Day 29

Session ● 5 min

From Hallow



Pentecost

Lectio Divina

Session ● 9 min



The Apostles at Pentecost

Lectio Divina Reflection

Session ● 18 min



Day 103: The Power of Pentecost

CCC #731-736

Session ● 15 min



Keeping Pentecost in our Hearts

“The Holy Spirit is classically defined as the love between the Father and the Son. It is a genuine, reciprocal FLOW of LOVE anywhere: in Heaven and here on Earth.”

“God the Father, the source of everything is always creating life and is giving it in love to the Son.

The Son is lovingly receiving that life and is gratefully giving it back to the Father. This enables the Father to give that life back to the Son in an even deeper way.

As this dynamic, reciprocal flow of love and gratitude deepens and intensifies, an energy, a fire, a palpable force, the 3rd person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit exists.”

*Father Ron Rolheiser, Catholic priest and theologian
from Saskatchewan*



Keeping Pentecost in our Hearts

In 1Corinthians 12:4 and 7 we hear, "...there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit..." "...To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good..."



The Spirit works within us and through us to use our gifts for the good of others.

When we consider the beautiful outpouring of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and Charisms, let us reflect upon 3 questions:

WHO am I called to be?

We know part of the answer lies in our calling to communion with God and neighbor. Love thy neighbor...no exceptions! Our neighbors are all of God's people; one human family united.

Keeping Pentecost in our Hearts



HOW am I called to live?

Are we open to the graces of these beautiful Fruits, Gifts, and Charisms? Are our hearts ready and willing to accept with reciprocal love, these graces that shape how we choose to act and react to each moment of our day?

WHAT am I called to do?

Knowing that each of us is created with God's never ending, abundant love, in His likeness and image which is our essential essence, that we have at the ready such bountiful, beautiful graces of the Holy Spirit, let us continually discern to what is the Lord calling me?

*May our hearts be enkindled, may our love for each person of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be deepened, and **may we live and serve in thanksgiving, strengthening God's Kingdom on earth.***



The Most Holy Trinity

by Nick Olkovich, St. Mark's College, UBC

Trinity Sunday: A feast sometime misunderstood and often dreaded by preachers. Too often we think of the Trinity as a technical or esoteric doctrine that is somehow disconnected from our everyday lives.

In John's Gospel, we are reminded that God is love, a communion of persons that reaches out in history with the offer of friendship and salvation. God the Father declares his love for the world by sending his Son, the Word made incarnate in Jesus Christ, to invite humankind to share in the inner life of God. Christ reminds us that to be created in the image and likeness of God - imago Trinitatis - is to be made for communion with God and neighbour; a calling we are free to accept or reject.

To believe in Christ - to profess our faith in the Trine God - requires something more than intellectual assent to the articles of the Creed.

Faith in Christ demands that we are reborn of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of love and truth that binds us together Father and Son and that unites us to Christ in his life, death and resurrection. We are called to witness to God's love, not simply by holding up signs emblazoned with the phrase "John 3:16", but rather by living as Jesus did, by serving the mystery of communion with God and neighbour in our daily lives.



The Holy See

Vatican News



A great addition to our day!

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

Pope Leo's Encyclical Magnifica Humanitas - Audiobook

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-06/audiobook-of-pope-leo-xiv-s-encyclical-now-available.html>

Text

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>



Introducing...
Our New
Assistant Director of Faith Formation
& Evangelization
Rainier Lagman



Welcome to the Diocese of Victoria!

Radiant Lives



Saint Peter and Saint Paul

Super Apostles!

June 29

<https://youtu.be/hBXFnKYcpuo?si=-PEnxBOcqekoazvL>





Saint Peter and Saint Paul

from Living with Christ June 2026

Tradition says these two apostles, honoured since the earliest days, were martyred in Rome. Peter, a fisherman, was chosen by Jesus to be his disciple. After Simon confessed that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter and told him that it was on this rock (petra) that he would build his Church. Acts records that, after the Ascension, Peter was indeed the "Chief of the Apostles." From the middles of the 3rd centruy onward, documents show that the bishops of Rome were recognized as the successors of Peter.



Saint Peter and Saint Paul

from Living with Christ June 2026

Paul was born in Tarsus, a Roman citizen raised and educated as a Pharisee. His experience of the risen Christ resulted in his conversion from a zealous persecutor of Christians to an apostle. In Acts of the Apostles, his friend Luke describes Paul's missionary journeys between the years 45-57, his return to Jerusalem, his subsequent arrest and his appeal to Caesar. Here history ends but tradition tells us that Paul was martyred for the faith about the year 66. Paul called himself the "Apostle of the Gentiles."



Forming Children & Youth for The Mass

From Loyola Press

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



Respect for the Word



Part 3 in a series about forming children for active participation in the Mass from Loyola Press

*To help children listen well to the Word of God at Mass, catechists should provide experiences of Scripture that allow young people to respect the Word, to become aware that Jesus speaks to them through it, and to engage in holy listening.**

From early childhood, students should learn that a reading from the Bible is something special and that they should listen with respect.

Catechists can emphasize rituals such as enthroning the Bible or handling it reverently, and using gestures and words we say at Mass:

“A reading from the Book/Gospel of...” and, “The Word/Gospel of the Lord.” There should be silence before and after the reading.

Respect for the Word



When teaching children about the parish church, the sacredness of the ambo as the place for the reading of the Word should be emphasized, so that children know when the reader approaches it, it is time to listen in a special way. Likewise, when teaching about the structure of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word should be treated as a special time to listen.

Jesus Speaks Through Scripture

By using guided meditation and prayer with Scripture, catechists can engage children's minds and imaginations to hear Jesus. Prayerful listening requires children's full attention and trains them to encounter Jesus and hear him speak to them directly through the Bible stories.

A non-scriptural resource to begin an imaginative journey to Jesus with the very young is The Ball of Red String. With older students, catechists can also use the 3-Minute Retreats to encourage praying with Scripture.

Respect for the Word



Holy Listening

The Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass says, “When God communicates his word, he expects a response, one that is, of listening and adoring ‘in Spirit and in truth’ (John 4:23). The Holy Spirit makes that response effective, so that what is heard in the celebration of the Liturgy may be carried out in a way of life...” (6) The participation of the people, it says, increases according to how deeply they listen and try to live the Word.

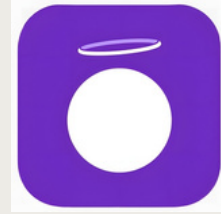
Lectio divina, an ancient four-step process of praying with Scripture, can help students practice hearing what God is saying to them through Scripture. Some add a fifth step, action, and that can help students make a decision to live what they have heard.

Some catechists ask older students to write in a journal after lectio divina.

If these strategies are a regular part of faith formation, students will be much more likely to listen and better equipped for their role as hearers of the Word at Mass.

**Based on the Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, 45–47.*

Hallow App for all RCDV Catechists



Login credentials:

Username: Your email

Password: hallowed

Have you explored any of these favourites?

Morning Offering

Daily Mass Readings

Daily Gospel

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Daily Contemplation

Bible in a Year

Catechism in a Year

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

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

Sept. 26 - Catechists' Fall Retreat, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria

Please watch for Eventbrite link in the coming weeks to register for this free gathering!

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

St. Patrick's Parish, Victoria

Closing Prayer



Heavenly Father,

We come before You in humble reverence,

praising the Holy Trinity -

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We seek the light of Your wisdom,

the strength of Your grace,

and the comfort of Your presence.

Unite us in love and purpose,

that we may reflect Your glory

in all we do.

Amen.

