



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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*** Fourth Sunday of Advent | 21 December 2025 ***



Christmas Message from Fr. Shijo George

At the *Concert with the Poor* on December 5th, Pope Leo XIV offered a profound reflection on the gift of music, saying: "Music is like a bridge that leads us to God." From this, music can be taken as a sacred pathway lifting the heart and revealing that we are truly God's beloved children. With music's cherished place in Christmas celebrations, Pope Leo invites the faithful during Advent, with attentive hearts, to "Let us be ready to listen to the song of God's love... Jesus is God's song of love for humanity."

Dear brothers and sisters,

As Christmas draws near, we recall, once more, the heavenly hymn that surrounded the birth of our Saviour: a melody of peace, hope, and divine tenderness. Every Christmas calls us back to the heart of God, who loved the world so deeply that He sent His only Son into the world. As St. John proclaims: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

This divine music, the music of God's enduring love, must continue to echo in our daily lives. It must be shared generously with all our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need of comfort, hope, and companionship.

The Feast of the Nativity invites us to encounter the unfathomable love of God made flesh. It calls us to reflect that love through lives marked by generosity, compassion, and sincere care. The First Letter of John reminds us with clarity and power: "Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:8). We cannot claim to love God if we fail to love those around us. To celebrate Christmas authentically is to allow God's love to become visible through our actions: to be His hands, His voice, His kindness in the world.

On this joyous and grace-filled occasion, I extend to each of you my warmest wishes for a holy, peaceful, and blessed Christmas. May the Infant Jesus find in your heart a tender and humble manger, lovingly prepared for Him. I leave you with these beautiful lines from the *Prayer of St. Patrick* by Brieger O'Hare and Marie Cox, a hymn that wraps us in the protective presence of Christ:



*Christ be with me; Christ within me;
Christ behind me; Christ before me;
Christ to comfort and restore me;
Christ beneath me and above me;
Christ in hearts of all that love me;
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*



Let our hearts sing the glory of God's love always.
I wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

This is the last Parish Bulletin of 2025!

The Next Parish Bulletin will be on the weekend of January 10/11, 2026.

Thank you for such a wonderful year; for your presence, care, kindness, service, thoughtfulness, dedication, graciousness, generosity, and prayers.

From Fr. Shijo and staff of Sacred Heart Parish, we wish you a most

*Blessed and Glorious Christmas, and a
Holy, Healthy, and Joyous New Year!*

LITURGICAL YEAR A

Saturday:

English Mass (Anticipated Sunday Mass) 4:00 pm

Sunday:

English Mass 9:00 am
Syro-Malabar Rite 11:00 am
Korean 3:00 pm
Vietnamese (Dec 25: Christmas / Jan 1: New Year) 5:30 pm

Weekday Masses

English Masses

Tuesday 11:00 am
Wednesday (Dec 24: Children's Christmas Pageant) 4:00 pm
(Dec 24: Children's Mass) 4:30 pm
(Dec 24: Christmas Eve Carolling) 6:30 pm
(Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass) 7:00 pm
Thursday (Dec 25: Christmas Day) 11:00 am
Friday (Dec 26: Boxing Day) No Mass

Korean Masses

Wednesday (Dec 24: Christmas Eve) 8:30 pm
Thursday (Dec 25: Christmas Day) No Mass

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday to Friday 10:30 am to 10:50 am
Saturday 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm
Sunday 8:15 am to 8:45 am



The Parish Office

will be closed

for the Christmas Season from
**25 December 2025
to 7 January 2026**

Tue, Dec 23: Deadline for hand-delivered donations to the church & office for the 2025 tax year.

Wed, Dec 31: Last collection in church basket to "count" toward the 2025 tax year.

Thurs, Jan 1: Collection in church basket will "count" toward the 2026 tax year.

**For Baptism, Marriage, Funerals,
and Anointing of the Sick**

Please contact:
E. sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org
P. 250-479-1611

Sacred Heart Parish Website >



*We gratefully thank
an anonymous donor for this*

**Christmas Gift
to the parish!**

*Please kindly take one copy per family,
to ensure every family receives a copy.*

Thank you!

SLOWING
DOWN
TO
THE SPEED
OF JOY
THE SIMPLE ART OF
TAKING BACK YOUR LIFE
MATTHEW KELLY



Please Pray For

Those who have died:

Andrew Chong, Alice, Joe Snr. & Joe Jnr. Delima, Sriwan Fernandez, Fr. Frank Franz, and Henry Muzyka.

Those who are ill:

Irene Anna, Dan, Jon A, Kris Balanda, Jacobus B, Irene C, Patricia C, Cora C, Lesley D, Kathleen G, Derek L, Lisa L, Kevin L, Ed O, Fiona O, Will P, Davide R, Willy S, Gaspar S, Valerie S, Cathy T, & Ornella T.

2026

Donation Envelopes

ARE READY FOR PICK UP in the foyer.

Envelopes are arranged alphabetically according to your surname. Donation Envelopes are needed to receive a tax receipt.

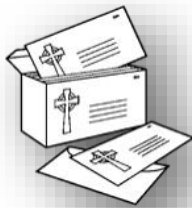
If you are a new parishioner or would like a box of donation envelopes, please contact the Parish Office: 250-479-1611 or email sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY ENVELOPES FROM PAST YEARS.
Some numbers have been re-assigned.

Please inform the Parish Office if you have a change of address.

For PAD users, when using the Special Envelopes for additional donations, please clearly write your name and address.

Thank you.



Fr. Shijo's Homilies

are available on our Parish Website

<https://sacredheartvictoria.com/sacred-heart-homilies.html>



Options to Donate

E-Transfer:

The email to use is sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

Automatic Debit Form:

<https://sacredheartvictoria.com/docs/PAD%20form%202020.pdf>

The PAD form is also available from the Parish Office.

If you use the Special Collection Envelopes, please remember to complete your name and address on those envelopes to receive a tax receipt. Information and links are also available on our website.

Canada Helps

Donations through Canada Helps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47781>

This is the new QR code for donations: also on display around the church for your convenience.

If you have any questions on the available options, or would like to make a change in how you donate, please contact the parish office. Thank you.



Thank you for your contributions!

December 13 & December 14, 2025

Envelopes \$ 2,002.00

Cash \$ 276.55

Total \$ 2,278.55

Building Fund \$ 350.00

Donations through PAD, Canada Helps, & e-Transfer will be reported after the end of the month.



Christmas Season



2025



Wed, Dec 24	4:00 pm	Children's Pageant / Carolling
Christmas Eve	4:30 pm	Children's Mass in English
	6:30 pm	Carolling (before Mass)
	7:00 pm	Mass in English
	8:30 pm	Mass in Korean
	10:00 pm	Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Thu, Dec 25	11:00 am	Nativity of the Lord (English)
Christmas Day	5:30 pm	Nativity of the Lord (Vietnamese)

Fri, Dec 26	11:00 pm	NO MASS
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Sat, Dec 27	4:00 pm	Anticipated Mass (English)
Holy Family		

Sun, Dec 28	9:00 am	Mass (English)
Holy Family	11:00 am	Syro-Malabar Rite Mass
	3:00 pm	Mass (Korean)

Wed, Dec 31	6:00 pm	Thanksgiving Mass (English)
New Year's Eve	7:30 pm	Mass (Korean)
	9:30 pm	Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

Thu, Jan 1	11:00 am	Mass (English)
Mary, Mother Of God	5:30 pm	Mass (Vietnamese)



Donations for Flowers & our Building Fund

are in the church foyer.

Cash or cheques are accepted.
Please make cheques out to "Sacred Heart Church".



2025 Annual Bishop's Appeal
Love & Unity

Thank you, parishioners!



Thank you for contributing to the Bishop's Appeal, and helping the parish to meet and exceed our goal.

Contributions are still being accepted.
For a Tax Receipt, please send donations to the Parish Office or the Pastoral Centre before the end of the year.

Online Donation:

www.rcdvictoria.org/bishops-appeal

Phone the Pastoral Centre directly for credit cards: 1-250-479-1331

Our Parish goal is \$45,500.00

Actual to Date: \$46,073.00

Number of Gifts: 126



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God. Your gifts help the poor and suffering to find Emmanuel, so they will also know that "God is with us." Please call our Social Concern Office: 250-727-0007 ext 1.

To donate online, specify "Sacred Heart Parish"
https://give-can.keela.co/ssvp_donation_form

Make cheques to: "Society of St. Vincent de Paul".

To join the Society, please contact Georgina:
mvgshort@telus.net or call 250-727-2615



The 2025-2026

Sunday Missal for Young Catholics

Colourfully illustrated, with notes for our youth to understand the Mass and Readings of each week.

Suggested donation: **\$10 each.**



Feast of the Holy Family

28 December

The Feast of the Holy Family falls on the first Sunday after Christmas. Although major feast days dedicated to each member of the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph), the Feast of the Holy Family commemorates their life together, as an exemplary, model family, and the celebration focuses on religious family life. In Western Christianity, veneration for the Holy Family as a group, rather than as individuals, did not arise until the 17th century, and was not officially recognized until the feast day was formally instituted in 1921 under Pope Benedict XV.

Because of the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, a feast for the Holy Family has been observed by the Copts from early times. Originally celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany (January 6), the Feast of the Holy Family was moved to the Sunday after Christmas in 1969, bringing it within the Christmas season.

[Online accessed, 18 Dec 2025:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Feast-of-the-Holy-Family>]



From the Diocese



Bishop Gary Gordon's Christmas Message

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/bishop-gary-gordons-message-for-christmas-2025>



Mass Times in the Diocese

Mass times for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary are available on the Diocesan website.

The schedule includes times and locations provided by parishes across the Diocese of Victoria.

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/events/2025-christmas-mass-times>



Care of the Dying

A Catholic Perspective: What Family Members Need to Know Before and After a Loved One Enters Eternal Life.

This pastoral guide offers practical information, from a Catholic perspective, for families facing the death of a loved one. Please share its guidance and message of faith, hope, and eternal life.

Download at: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/care-of-the-dying>



Closing of the Jubilee Year

11 am Mass, Sunday December 28
 St. Andrew's Cathedral

Bishop Gary Gordon will celebrate Mass at 11 am on Sunday, December 28 as the Diocese joins the Universal Church to celebrate the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year.

All are welcome!

Livestream at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BBaull-9vo>

Young Catholic Women

express your joy and love of God through art!
Deadline: January 15, 2026

Open to all Catholic women using watercolour, charcoal, acrylics, oil, and pencil crayon only. A spiritual theme: nature, animals, and portraits. First place awards for ages: 10-17, 18-25, 26-35. Winners will be announced in June 2026 at the BC/Yukon convention.

Email the original art with your name, address, phone number, age and email address to pastpresident@bcyukoncw.com



Blessed Are You

January 30 to February 1, 2026

A WEEKEND OF KNOWING JESUS
 THROUGH FAITH, FUN, AND FRIENDSHIP

Camp Homewood

Registration is now open.

For Youth in grades 7-12

The cost is \$195 per participant:
 includes food, accommodation, and activities.

To register: <https://camp-homewood-2025.eventbrite.ca>

Employment Opportunity

Assistant

to the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization

The Assistant will assist in the primary mission of the Ministry of Faith Formation and Evangelization: to serve the People of God to know, celebrate, contemplate, and live the Christian faith in the One Triune God. Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume and cover letter by **January 5, 2026.**

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

PASTORAL CARE TRAINING SESSION

9:30 am to 12 pm, Jan 24 to Mar 28
 (No session, Mar 7)

Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings. You will receive a Certificate of Completion if all sessions are attended.

**Please register through your local parish by
 January 15, 2026.**

For further information, please email moiraking@shaw.ca



Pastor, Fr. Shijo George

sgeorge@rcdvictoria.org

Korean, Fr. Marco Park

dkpark@rcdvictoria.org

Syro-Malabar, Fr. Shijo George

sgeorge@rcdvictoria.org

Vietnamese, Fr. Michael Tran

michaeltran@rcdvictoria.org

Hospital Chaplain, Fr. Sean Flynn

250-889-3761

Parish Administrative Assistant

Katherine Newton: sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

Parish Liturgy Coordinator

Rafael Oei: sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org

RMSE Coordinator

Sindhu Merwin: sacredheartmse@gmail.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2025 / 2026

Jeremy Côté Matthew Moodie Mary Moreau
Margaret Sasges Samantha Sherman Rick Perez de Tagle
Edgar Tan Jr. (Chair) Merwin Thengil

Richard Byeon (Korean Representative)
Sonny Huynh (Vietnamese Representative)
Anjali Aniyan (Syro-Malabar Representative)

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

Parish Office: sacredheart@rcdvictoria.org



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES & POSITIONS

Parish Liturgy Coordinator

Altar Servers
Extraordinary Ministers

Floral Ministry
Lectors
Music Director
Pastoral Care Ministry
Ushers

Video Streamers
Sacristan

Rafael Oei

Karla Montano
Marilyn Turner,
Mae Tan
Karla Montano
Stan Dzbik
Rafael Oei
Lynda Tan
Lynda Tan
Miriam Podmoroff
Peter Liem
Sylvain Leclerc

PARISH GROUPS

Christian Meditation
C.W.L. / Prayer Line

Knights of Columbus
Led By The Spirit Group
Moms & Tots
Funeral Receptions
Social Justice/D & P
St. Vincent de Paul

Margie Noonan
Margot McLaughlin
Miriam Podmoroff
Stan Dzbik
David MacIntyre
Genevieve Vuksic
Marilyn Turner
Stan Dzbik
Georgina Short

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE TO AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member,
religious, employee, or volunteer, visit
RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry
or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up
by a Catholic Bishop,
visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or
call 1-866-892-3737

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their advertising, please support them!**



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