ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

Mailing Address: 740 View Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1J8
Phone: 250-388-5571
Email: standrewscathedral@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Website: www.standrewscathedral.com

Schedule:

Daily Mass:
Monday - Friday: 12:10 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am

Sunday Mass:
Saturday: 5:00 pm (Anticipated Sunday)
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday: 8:50 am
Wednesday: Following Perpetual Help Devotion until 3:00pm

Reconciliation
Monday – Thursday: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Friday: 10:30 am – 11:30 am
Saturday: 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm
(See weekly schedule for any changes.)

Sacramental Information

Baptism: If you are seeking the Baptism of an infant, please contact the parish office at 250-388-5571. As Baptism is the first Sacrament of initiation into the Christian faith, we expect that the parents (or guardians) desire to raise the child in the Christian faith and will attend Mass regularly.

Upcoming dates available for baptisms will be the weekends of:

— 2026 —		*— 2027 —*	
Prep Class	**Baptism**	**Prep Class**	**Baptism**
Nov 7	Nov 28 (5pm)	Jan 9 Mar 13	Jan 31 (9 am) Apr 4 (11 am)

Marriage: Because the Church is deeply concerned about each marriage, couples are asked to give a minimum of six months' notice prior to the intended date of their wedding. Church policy requires that marriages be performed in your home parish – unless you are registered and attend elsewhere.

Funeral: Individual arrangements with a priest. Begin by calling the parish office.

WELCOME! *You enter this Church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. As a baptized person, you enter it as a son or daughter of the Father in Christ. Come in then with humility of mind, joy of heart and thanks on your lips. Acknowledge the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle and adore him. Come in and pause in prayer in the midst of your busy life and its many worries. Be grateful to those who, for the glory of God and in honour of St. Andrew, built this place of worship with faith and sacrifice, and sanctified it with their songs and prayers.*

Anyone who wishes to practice the Catholic faith by attending this Cathedral church may consider St. Andrew's as his/her own parish, no matter where one lives on the lower island. You simply need to register. Registration forms are available in the Cathedral Narthex. Simply fill it out and place your completed form in the collection basket.

Ministry to the Homebound

If you know of anyone who cannot make it to Mass each week due to sickness or infirmity, and who would like to receive Communion in their home, care homes, or hospital, please contact the office at 250-388-5571 or by email standrewscathedral@gmail.com.

If you find yourself pregnant and in need of accompaniment during your pregnancy, Respect Life Ministry is here for you. We have a broad means of support during and after the pregnancy. Call Annette at Respect Life Ministry to learn more: ***250-812-0087***

+ Hospital Chaplain (RJH, VGH)

Fr. Sean Flynn **250-889-3761**

This Week in the Parish

Rosary: Mon - Fri at 11:40 am; Sat at 8:25 am; Sun at 4:30 pm
Perpetual Help Devotions: Wed following 12:10 pm Mass
Eucharistic Adoration: Wed at 1:00 pm; Sat at 8:50 am
Cathedral Hours: Mon - Fri: 10 am - 4 pm; Sat/Sun: 8 am - 6 pm

Mon Nov 2 **All Souls Day**
11:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation
12:00 pm **Mass** for Greg Cavin +
7:00 pm **Mass** for All Souls +

Tue Nov 3
11:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation
12:10 pm **Mass** for Amer Ramos +
2:00 pm Beginning Apologetics Bible Study (*CDR*)
6:00 pm Legion of Mary *(DCR)*
7:30 pm Prayer Group *(Zoom)*

Wed Nov 4 **St. Charles Borromeo**
7:00 am Men's Scripture Study *(Library)*
11:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation
12:10 pm **Mass** for Gloria Benlota +
6:30 pm Beginning Apologetics Bible Study (*Zoom*)
7:00 pm Choir Practice (9 am) *(CDR)*
7:00 pm *Catholic in Recovery*: Men's Purity *(MTL)*

Thu Nov 5
11:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation
12:10 pm **Mass** for Giuseppe Loiacono +
7:00 pm Choir Practice (11 am) *(CDR)*

Fri Nov 6
9:30 am **Funeral**: George Tse +
10:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation
10:45 am Lectio Divina *(Library)*
12:10 pm **Memorial Mass** for Joseph Collins +
7:00 pm Couples for Christ Prayer Assembly *(Seghers Hall)*

Sat Nov 7
8:25 am Rosary for Vocations
8:50 am Eucharistic Adoration
9:30 am **Mass** for Diane Picken +
3:45 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 pm **Mass** for those interred in the Columbarium +

Sun Nov 8
9:00 am **Mass** for Mario & Louis Morettin +
11:00 am **Mass** for St. Andrew's Cathedral Parishioners
12:30 pm Sacramental Preparation *(Parish Centre)*
5:00 pm **Mass** for Norman Isherwood +

Seeking: Tech Tutor

Retired long-time parishioner looking for a one-on-one tech tutor.
Needs more confidence using electronic devices, including: laptop, iPad, iPhone, and much more.
Please call: 250 381-2607

Celebrating Vocations at the Cathedral

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"

(Matthew 5:3)

The saints remind us that holiness is possible for everyone — in every vocation and every walk of life. They show us how responding to God's call leads to joy and eternal life.

Which saint inspires you most, and how does their life encourage you to say "yes" to God?

Pray for the courage to live your vocation as the saints did — with faith, hope, and love.

The saints show us that true joy and freedom come from placing God above all else. Their lives remind us that holiness often begins in simplicity and humility, responding generously to God's call. During National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for more men and women to courageously follow Him, discerning a life as a priest, religious brother or sister, or through holy matrimony. Could God be inviting you to join in this holy witness? Talk to Fr. Dean or the Director of Vocations for the Diocese: Fr. David Hogman: dhogman@rcdvictoria.org.

✞ Rosary for Vocations

A parish rosary for vocations (and for our seminarians) is said at 8:25AM every Saturday morning before Adoration.

We are also looking for more volunteers to lead the Rosary. If you are interested, please text or email Bernadette on 250-896-4136 or bernadette.oconnor@wsp.com

Beginning Apologetics Class Notice

Apologetics 2PM in-person class will be held on **Tuesday** November 3rd
Apologetics 6:30PM zoom class will be held as usual on **Wednesday** November 4th

No classes will be held on November 11th.

From the Pastoral Assistant's Desk

All Saints Day **November 1, 2026**

Clergy of our diocese gather in Gold River Monday to Friday for a week of study days together. In the meantime, we extend our thanks to one of our dear retired priests, Fr. Marc Parent, who is blessing us once again with his sacramental ministry in their absence.

Now that the busy season of double election campaigns is over, let's pray for our elected leaders that they'll be able to lead our cities and our province with integrity and justice. "… I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour…" (1 Tim 2:1-3)

You may have heard about a new document from the Vatican called "Venite ad me: Considerations on the Transmission of the Faith in an Epochal Change". Though not from the pope himself, these reflections from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (made up of cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay theologians) explore what it looks like to pass on the faith to those around us in all the realities of the world of today. I'm still reading through it, but I wanted to share a few preliminary impressions.

It opens with the words of Jesus: "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest" as a central theme to inviting others to experience God's love. Taking into account how the world has changed and people are often deeply divided in many ways, we're encouraged to return to the central message of the Gospel, remarking that "those who accept [Jesus'] offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness," and that "there is no human reality marked by failure or sin that cannot be restored to its original purpose."

So how do we go about sharing the Gospel with others? Two primary ways are suggested. First, within the family. Children come to know the love of God and have an innate sense of faith because they see it reflected in their parents. Until recently, this had long been the primary way the faith was transmitted. In the modern world, it's more and more common that many people do not know the love of Jesus. The second way suggested to share the Gospel is through a genuine witness of life: the Church grows by attraction when we truly reflect Christ to others. "It is not the Church that attracts, but Christ; and if a Christian or an ecclesial community attracts, it is because through that 'channel' flows the lifeblood of Charity that cascades from the Heart of the Saviour."

I'm encouraged to see that this is happening all the time at St. Andrew's! Every week I'm meeting new people who are attracted to Christ through an interior call of the Holy Spirit, an encounter with Christ through the liturgy, and by witnessing the faith of the people in our cathedral parish. Let's keep welcoming those who come through our doors with the love of Jesus, and may God give us the grace to extend that same love to those outside our doors as well, in our city, our workplaces, and the marketplace.

This Sunday we celebrate All Saints Day, remembering all those who have attained Heaven, both the recognized saints that we honour in the Church and all those we don't know by name. May their perseverance in faith encourage us and give us strength to bear our trials with trust in God. On Monday, November 1, we then celebrate All Souls' Day, when we remember and pray for the dead who are in the process of purification (Purgatory) necessary to enter the joy of Heaven. In addition to the 12:00 Mass this Monday for All Souls' Day, Bishop Gary will celebrate an evening Mass at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's, so that all will have an opportunity to come and pray for all our loved ones who have gone to the Lord before us.

Peace in Christ,

Matthew Orlowski

Bishop's Appeal 2026

The Bishop's Appeal, Be the Light is still accepting donations. Please consider making a financial commitment to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Not only are you helping our parish, but you are helping build faith communities in our Diocese. When we give, we invest in the faith and future of this and the next generation.

Parish Goal: $ 107,000; **Actual to Date:** $ 58,568.36; **Number of Gifts:** 181

Thank you to those who have already donated. Copies of the Bishop's Appeal brochure are available in the Cathedral Narthex for those who did not receive it by mail.

Italy Pilgrimage Opportunity with Fr. Joseph Yuson

Fr. Joseph Yuson, with gracious assistance of Fr. Dean N. Henderson, is organizing an additional pilgrimage to Italy in April 2027 and invites anyone in the Diocese who may be interested to join.

Pilgrims will have the opportunity to visit many sacred and historic sites in Assisi, Siena, Rome, and more! Registration forms are available in the Cathedral Narthex and the Parish office.

News from the Chancery

40th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi

October 27th marks the 40th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi. Initiated by Saint John Paul II, this historic gathering unites religious leaders from around the world in prayer, dialogue, and a shared commitment to peace. Pope Leo XIV reminds us that "Precisely in these times marked by a 'culture of power,' there is a need to cultivate the spirit of Assisi, which entails a rejection of the religious justification of war, a spirit of mediation and dialogue, and contemplative reflection combined with creative action in the service of a future of peace." Watch the highlights of the gathering here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8yP67HP0LM

2026 Diocese Faith Day

All are invited to attend the Diocese of Victoria's annual Faith Day on Saturday, November 21, 2026. The day will begin with Mass at 9:00 am at Sacred Heart Parish (4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria), followed by speaker at St. Andrew's Regional High School (880 McKenzie Ave, Victoria). Our keynote speaker, Dr. Donna M. Beegle, will speak on "Who Is My Neighbour? Relationship and Belonging with the Poor" as we recognize Christ in the face of the needy and the suffering. Learn more about the 2026 Diocesan Faith Day here: https://diocesan-faith-day-2026.eventbrite.ca

Our Lady of the Rosary Update and Support

The construction of the new Our Lady of the Rosary Church and Parish Centre is progressing! They are currently seeking approval from the City of Langford for "Partial Occupancy" to celebrate weekend Masses in the new church. If approved, this soft opening would only allow space for current parishioners due to restricted seating capacity. They look forward to welcoming parishioners from other parishes to visit the new church soon and will send out a notice when a Grand Opening is announced.

In the meantime, if you would like to help support the ongoing construction and development costs, you are invited to support their 50/50 Draw. Every ticket purchased contributes directly to completing the new church, where it will serve parishioners and the wider community for generations to come.

Purchase your tickets today at: https://rafflebox.ca/raffle/oltrp/

New Document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith: Venite ad me

The Holy See's Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith has published a new document on the Memorial of Saint John Paul II, titled "Venite ad me: Considerations on the Transmission of the Faith in an Epochal Change." The aim of this document is to offer a focused reflection and to propose concrete ways of proclaiming the kerygma amid the epochal change through which we are living. For more info visit: https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/venite-ad-me

Book of Remembrance & Banners

Sheets which you may use to write the names of your departed loved ones may be found at the back of the church. Once completed, these sheets may be put in our Book of Remembrance which will be placed on a special table by the Sanctuary for the month of November.

We will also be displaying banners around the church containing the names of those who have been buried from the Cathedral from 1899 - 2016. Names of those who have died after 2017 will be placed in our Book of Remembrance as we wait to have sufficient names to print up a new banner to display.

"Discovery" Faith Study

This is your opportunity to join in a small-group, discussion-based faith study rooted deeply in scripture and in the tradition of our Catholic faith. Discovery leads you through a simple but personally challenging look at the Gospel message. Open to all, and especially great for those new to the Catholic faith.

Discovery will take place in the Parish Centre on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, over a duration of 6 weeks.
Start date: November 9.

To register, contact Matthew:
morlowski@rcdvictoria.org

Wood Carvings from Bethlehem and Jerusalem

On Saturday, November 21st following the 5pm Mass, and Sunday, November 22nd following the morning masses only, you are invited to take a look at the religious olive wood carvings that will be on display in the Cathedral Narthex. These religious articles can be used as gifts for first communions, Christmas and other occasions.

The sale of these religious items benefits the Christians in the Holy Land by creating jobs which assists them in staying

rooted in the land of Christ and is a way of preserving a local cultural heritage which is in danger of being lost. 70 years ago, the Christian population was 20% of the whole population, now they are only 1.0%. The Christians of the Holy Land face severe and escalating hardships driven by the regional conflict, economic devastation from the collapse of tourism, rising settler violence in the West Bank, and increased harassment and anti-Christian acts by extremists in Jerusalem.

Please note: payment by cash or e-transfer only.

Catholic in Recovery

According to a 2025 Barna Group study, up to 75% of Christian men struggle with habitual sexual sin. This means that seven out of ten men, even among Catholics, struggle. Many live in shame and secrecy, afraid of what would happen if anybody found out about their hidden habits.

This urgent issue afflicts people young and old. It harms marriages and families, and it prevents many, many Christians from fully living out God's call to holiness in their lives.

This is why St Andrew's Cathedral is launching **Catholic in Recovery**, formerly Break Free, a ministry helping adult men overcome struggles with purity through the 12 steps and the wisdom of our Catholic faith. Beginning **October 28**, the group will meet **Wednesdays at 7 pm in the parish centre**. All men over 20 are welcome.

To register, contact Rob at **catholic.in.recovery.victoria@gmail.com** or **778-587-6421**. We're also seeking facilitators over 20 with 12-step experience.

Men who struggle — we invite you to step into freedom this Fall. Don't wait! There is no better time to start your journey to purity than now.

For more information about the program, please see https://catholicinrecovery.com/

We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

For the month of November a collection of relics, brought to St. Andrew's Cathedral by our third Bishop, Most Reverend Jean Baptiste Brondel O.M.I, will be presented for veneration. Born in Bruges, Belgium in 1842, and following formation at the American College in Louvain and his ordination in 1864, Fr. Brondel volunteered for the American Missions on the West Coast, beginning in 1867. Twelve years later he completed his appointment to Hailacoon, Washington Territory. He was then named successor to Archbishop Seghers and was consecrated Bishop of Victoria in 1879.

The two oak reliquaries of Bishop Brondel (which were part of the Cathedral's original high altar) each hold ten thecas containing various relics connected to Our Lord (particularly His Passion), various Apostles (including St. Andrew), St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis of Assisi, and others.

An ancient tradition in the Church, venerating the Saints provides an opportunity to honour the example of their love of God, inspiration to imitate the witness of their lives, and as a means to seek their intercession with God on our behalf.

Reliquary A *(from top center then down left to right)*

1. From the Manger of Our Lord Jesus
2. From the stone of the Anointing of Our Lord
3. From the table of the Last Supper
4. From the swaddling clothes of the Infant Jesus
5. Bone from St. Anne, Mother (of Mary)
6. Bone from St. Andrew, Apostle
7. Bone from St. James the Less
8. Bone from St. Thomas Aquinas
9. From the woolen cloak of St. Joseph
10. Bone from St. Charles Borromeo

Reliquary B *(from top center then down left to right)*

1. From the Sudarium (burial facial veil) of our Lord Jesus Christ
2. From the Column of Flagellation of Our Lord
3. Bone from St. Joachim, Father (of Mary)
4. From the Column (of Flagellation) and the Crowning of Our Lord (see "Reliquary B. 2", above)
5. From the Holy Sepulcher of Our Lord
6. Bone from St. James the Greater
7. From the Crown of Thorns of Our Lord
8. St. Francis of Assisi
9. From the "Titulus" (the banner on the Cross)
10. From the Crypt of the Agony of Our Lord

DYING WITH CHRIST, HEADING FOR HEAVEN:

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO M.A.I.D.

A Seminar Hosted by St. Andrew's Cathedral

KEYNOTE: DEACON LARRY WORTHEN FROM HALIFAX N.S.

Deacon Larry is the Executive Director of the Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada and an expert on MAID in Canada. He will be preaching at all weekend Masses, as well as teaching at the Seminar, as he promotes The Gospel of Life in the midst of an advancing culture of death.

The Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada exists to engage, encourage, and equip physicians and dentists to glorify God by integrating the gospel in practice.

Visitor: Christ's hope and healing for every patient.

November 14
Mass at 8:30am at
St. Andrew's Cathedral
Seminar begins at 9:30am
Seminar ends at 3pm

Registration
This seminar is for 16 and over.
Cost $25.00 (includes lunch)
Registration through the office.

Contact us for more information and Registration
250-388-5571
standrewscathedral@gmail.com

TOPICS COVERED DURING THE SEMINAR

Suffering with Dignity in Christ
Responding to a request for MAID

Understanding MAiD in Canada

Dying in Christ as anticipation for Heaven.
Preparing for death

"We must reject the temptation to cause death under the guise of false compassion. Medicine must never be the servant of programmed death." Pope Leo XIV

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Parish Contacts / Ministries / Groups

PASTORAL STAFF:		
Bishop of Victoria	Bishop Gary Gordon	chancery@rcdvictoria.org
Cathedral Rector	Fr. Dean Henderson	dhenderson@rcdvictoria.org
Hospital Chaplain (RJH / VGH)	Fr. Sean Flynn	250-889-3761
Assistant Priest	Fr. Claude Makulu	cmakulu@rcdvictoria.org
Deacon	Deacon Philip Yuson	pyuson@rcdvictoria.org
Pastoral Assistant	Matthew Orlowski	morlowski@rcdvictoria.org
Pastoral Ministry	Annette Turgeon	250-812-0087
Office Manager	Rita Fichtner	saintandrewsoffice@gmail.com
Office Assistant	Anna Nicoletti-Carriere	standrewscathedral@gmail.com
Custodian	Steve Thompson	
Music Director	Iason Giagtzoglou	cathedralmusic@rcdvictoria.org
Sacristan	Sandi Riddett	sriddett@gmail.com; 250-507-5081

MINISTRIES:		
Altar Servers	Ben Ocampo	250-883-9674
Break Free		break.free.victoria@gmail.com; 778-587-6421
Church Stewards	Betty Boechler	bettyboechler@outlook.com
Children's Religious Education	Matthew Orlowski	morlowski@rcdvictoria.org
Extraordinary Min. of Holy Communion	Betty Boechler	bettyboechler@outlook.com
Children's Ministry	Andrea Collins	awalkercollins@gmail.com; 778-966-4623
Finance Committee	Daniel Hickey (Chair), Stephen Albinati, Barbara Armstrong, Phat Do	
Gardening	Parish Office	standrewscathedral@gmail.com
Homebound Ministry	Deacon Philip Yuson	pyuson@rcdvictoria.org
Hospitality Ushers/Greeters	Parish Office	standrewscathedral@gmail.com
Intercessory Prayers	Annette Turgeon	250-812-0087
Lectors	Bernadette O'Connor	250-896-4136
Music Ministry	Iason Giagtzoglou	cathedralmusic@rcdvictoria.org
Parish Pastoral Council	Jonathan Eades (Chair), Maria Arsenault, Faye Baligod, Rommel Esteban, Frank Falzon, Tim McGee, Chris Ryzuk, Terry Speller, Andrea Walker-Collins	
People of Hope Prayer Group	Lynn Weedmark	hilynn@telus.net; 250-477-4700
Respect Life Ministry	Annette Turgeon	250-812-0087
RCIA	Matthew Orlowski	morlowski@rcdvictoria.org
Young Adults Group	Jacob Hilderman	jacob.hilderman@gmail.com
Youth Discipleship Coordinator	Giordano Drury	giordano.drury@gmail.com

FAITH STUDIES:		
Bible Study	Bernadette O'Connor	250-896-4136
Lectio Divina	Rod Crutcher	rodcrutcher@me.com
Men's Scripture Study	Wed @ 7 am (Library)	standrewscathedral@gmail.com
Small-Group Faith Study	Matthew Orlowski	morlowski@rcdvictoria.org

AFFILIATED GROUPS:		
Couples for Christ	Alfred & Rona Biona	standrewschapter@gmail.com; 250-888-8670
El Shaddai	Florita Cadiz	florleopardas@yahoo.com.hk; 250-415-7720
Development & Peace		1-888-234-8533
Knights of Columbus	Joe Cavin	joseph.cavin@gmail.com; 778-533-0405
KP		katesismongpilipino@yahoo.com
Legion of Mary	Faye Baligod	faye_baligod@hotmail.com; 250-885-8773
Missionary Families of Christ	Alvin & Michelle Almonte	mfcvictoriabc@gmail.com; 778-350-5922
Soup Kitchen (9/10 Club)		operations@thesoupkitchen.ca; 778-440-7687
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Brian Mann	brian.mann7@gmail.com; 250-812-5690

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St. Augustine

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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

2026 Bishop's Appeal: Be the Light

The sun sets over Port Hardy Bay

Supporting Our Local Missions — A Short Story

Around our west coast and up in the north of Vancouver Island the Diocese has a number of very small parishes and missions. With the small numbers in these communities the parishes struggle to cover the costs of their buildings, utilities and insurance, but on top of that, paying their share of a priest is so often beyond them. Thank the Lord, we have a Bishop that is determined that the far away places aren't going to be forgotten, and we have parishioners across the diocese who have the generosity to support the Bishop's Appeal that enables smaller communities to have access to the Sacraments. What follows is a short story about just one person who was a benefactor of the Appeals generosity. His name was Bob.

Bob was born in Europe and came to Canada to find work. He never married or had a family, and his two siblings remained in Europe, so Bob was on his own and he was fine with this. He was a very joyous character but also he liked his own company, so going off fishing by himself was a real favourite for Bob.

Over time, like all of us, Bob grew old. He got to ninety years of age and his health deteriorated. Bob was intelligent and he knew that his time was limited. And like many people, he then started to look back on his life. He had been brought up a Catholic, but after childhood he stopped going to church. He never gave up on God or his faith, but the Church was not part of his life. But in those last few months as he reflected he knew he had got it wrong. So he asked the nurse if there was a Catholic priest who could come and see him.

Bob was now in a care home on one of the islands off the north coast of Vancouver Island. For many years there had been no resident priest in the north of Vancouver Island, but in 2023 the Bishop appointed a priest to cover the north. The Bishop's Appeal was a significant part of making this appointment possible.

When Bob first saw the priest he said with heartbreaking sadness, "I have forgotten how to pray!" But on the priest's third visit Bob was delighted to see him and asked him to come close so he could whisper something. And then, in his birth language, Bob recited first the Our Father and then the Hail Mary. The priest was moved to tears. Thanks to God's grace, over the last four months of Bob's life the priest was able to pop in and see him almost every week — not something that is always possible when you live on an island off the coast of an island!

Bob died in the summer of 2026 having been anointed and with great peace.
The care home keeps a record of who visited each resident, and for Bob the only name recorded was the priest. Bob left instructions about how he wanted his funeral, and the priest, on his own, quietly fulfilled his request.

A big thank you to Bob for being such an example of humility in the face of death, and a big thank you to all those who, through the Bishop's Appeal, made it possible for a priest to be there for Bob. The picture above is Bob's favourite fishing spot.