



Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Office of the Bishop

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

January 21, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“What is needed is a personalized approach to the sick,
not just of *curing* but also of *caring* ...” ~ Pope Francis

In his message for the *World Day of the Sick* which falls on February 11, 2020, Pope Francis brings to our attention the grace and mercy promised by Jesus through the words, “Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt. 11:28) We are invited to rest our burdens with the Lord, and remember that the gaze of Jesus is not one of indifference but of mercy, hope, care, and healing for the sick, the poor, and the oppressed. Through the example of Jesus, we are called to be like the Good Samaritan, to accompany those in need so they may experience the “presence of Christ who consoles and cares for the sick, and heals every hurt.”

In this regard, sustained by Christian charity, we are encouraged by Pope Francis to always offer the best medical service possible, to safeguard the right to life, and to bring comfort and relief to the sick. While endeavouring to provide the best care necessary, the Pope also reminds us in his letter that treatments, research, and rehabilitation should always be in the service of the sick, to promote the dignity and life of each person, and to reject any compromise in the forms of assisted suicide or the suppression of life.

While we are invited to immerse fully in the ministry of healing, and our focus is fixed on its demands, we are mindful of the needs of healthcare workers who bear the burdens of being in the trenches of our sacred field hospitals. Attention to the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of healthcare professionals and volunteers is also important in order for them to provide solace and comfort to those entrusted to their care, to rest their own burdens with the Lord.

To support this ministry, our Diocese continues to provide training resources to parish communities through the *Diocesan Pastoral Outreach Training Program*. These sessions help equip those called to serve in this ministry with the tools necessary to touch the lives of those in need of the healing ministry of Christ, to care for the sick and homebound.

Through Mary our Mother, I pray that she may help us share the gifts we have received, be attentive to each other's needs, and to share the joy of selfless service to others through a generous heart.

In Communion,

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Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria

**Diocesan Pastoral Outreach Training Program**

Sessions at:	Victoria	Parksville
Session 1 <i>The Healing Ministry of Christ</i>	Sat. February 22, 2020 9 am – 3 pm St. Patrick's (Oak Bay) (250) 592-7391 stpat190@telus.net	Sat. February 1, 2020 10 am – 3 pm Ascension Parish (250) 248-3747 ascensionparish@shaw.ca
Session 2 <i>Listening & Communication and Mental Health</i>	Sat. March 14, 2020 9 am – 3 pm St. Patrick's (Oak Bay) (250) 592-7391 stpat190@telus.net	Sat. March 7, 2020 10 am – 3 pm Ascension Parish (250) 248-3747 ascensionparish@shaw.ca
Session 3 <i>The Grieving Process and Ministering to Families</i>	Sat. April 18, 2020 9 am – 3 pm St. Joseph the Worker (250) 479-7413 sjtwparish@rcdvictoria.org	Sat. April 25, 2020 10 am – 3 pm Ascension Parish (250) 248-3747 ascensionparish@shaw.ca
Session 4 <i>Who Am I as a Pastoral Care Visitor?</i>	Sat. May 30, 2020 9 am – 3 pm St. Joseph the Worker (250) 479-7413 sjtwparish@rcdvictoria.org	Sat. May 9, 2020 10 am – 3 pm Ascension Parish (250) 248-3747 ascensionparish@shaw.ca

*For continuity, we recommend that participants attend all four sessions.
Please bring a bag lunch to each session; coffee and tea will be provided.*

Program Contact Information

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