



## Catholic Diocese of Victoria

### *Office of the Bishop*

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May 5, 2022

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

The Diocese of Victoria is most grateful to Fr. Konrad Zaborowski SDS, who in August 2021 agreed to serve as Administrator Pro Tempore at Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria while waiting for his visa for work in the United States to be processed. His devoted ministry to God's people has been a source of blessing for our Diocese.

Now that Fr. Konrad's visa has been approved, he will be leaving Sacred Heart to take up his teaching position. I am involved in many conversations with religious communities and other bishops to try to find new priests, both for Sacred Heart, and for the many other places in our Diocese that do not have a full-time pastor. The key to solving this ongoing reality is vocations within our own diocese – please, pray for vocations!

While Sacred Heart is without a pastor, an Executive Committee will act as the de facto governing body for parish priorities, agendas, and direction. This Committee, composed of the Parish Pastoral Council chairperson, the Finance Committee chairperson, and the Building/Maintenance chairperson, will meet regularly and will communicate with other committees for discussion and decision-making. It is expected that the majority of decisions can and should be made at the parish level, but the Bishop's Office will be consulted on major issues.

To assist with pastoral care, the Executive Committee will need the support of Sacred Heart parishioners to establish and enhance ministries related to liturgy, catechesis, funerals and grief, baptisms, weddings, and outreach to the homebound.

Regular liturgical celebrations are vital to the life and spirit of a parish, and the Executive Committee will work to ensure that these continue. Again, they will need your help: it is essential that parishioners of Sacred Heart are trained to lead the Sunday Celebration of the Word. In this beautiful liturgical celebration, God's people are fed by Word and fellowship. The Sunday Celebration of the Word inspires and directs the encounter of human activity so that participants, in solidarity with the whole human family, can give witness to Jesus Christ and serve those in need.

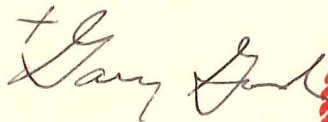
Our Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization, Gwen Jahelka, (gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org) can provide more information about Sunday Celebrations of the Word, and training for the parishioners who will lead these celebrations. I have absolute confidence that the Holy Spirit will raise up lay leaders who are qualified, able, and willing

to help the people of Sacred Heart to collaboratively and co-responsibly continue the mission of the Church.

There are priests in our Diocese who may sometimes be available to celebrate Saturday evening or Sunday morning Masses at Sacred Heart. In addition, priests will be available for funerals, weddings and baptisms as necessary. A list of priests to contact has been provided to Sacred Heart's Executive Committee.

This is undeniably a time of change for Sacred Heart, and change can bring feelings of uncertainty and loss. But change is a normal part of a Catholic community's life, a process of transformation that can be positively embraced. I pray this that this time will be an opportunity for the community of Sacred Heart to see Christ through new encounters, and to develop new ways to grow as a Catholic faith community.

In Communion,



Most Reverend Gary Gordon  
Bishop of Victoria

