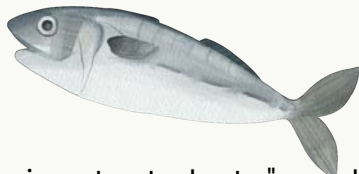


In The News at St. John Paul II



May 2025

Holy Mackerels



Holy Mackerels are certificates given to students "caught doing good." The original is sent home, and a copy is added to our fishing net. Each week, six names are drawn, and the winners choose a prize from the basket. It's a fun way to celebrate kindness. The following students received Holy Mackerels since our last newsletter: **Matthew H. Easton, Thomas, Leo x2, Azeen, Michael M., Levi, Aradhya x2, Emery, Olivia A., Sara N. x2, Ari, Phoebe, Olivia D., Veera, Savanna, Hannah x2, Lyla, Madison, Quinn x2, Meredith, Hadden, Matthew M. Luke Ber., Mason F.**



Celebrating a May Birthday: **Truen, Benjamin B., Luke Ber., Sehaj, Priti, Malachai, Sara L., Hailey, Hannah, Michael, Finley, Max, Zoey, Everly, Mrs. Ellwood & Mrs. Manerikar.**
Wishing you the very best on your special day.

Month of Mary - Jeans & Rosary shirts Tuesdays



Throughout the month of May, our staff and students will come together by praying the Rosary. For Catholics, May is a special time dedicated to honoring our Blessed Mother, Mary—the mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

To help make this experience more meaningful for the children, they will have the opportunity to design their own T-shirts. Once completed, the shirts will be sent home with students, **and they are invited to wear them with Jeans each Tuesday in May.**

In addition, we are **collecting cash donations to support the purchase of grocery** gift cards for St. Vincent de Paul, helping to assist those in need within our community. Thank you for your support and participation in this meaningful tradition.



Our Overflowing Lost and Found!

We have an abundance of items in our lost and found, including sweaters, coats, and a variety of other belongings that need to be claimed. The *lost and found* is conveniently located just outside the office.

Families, we encourage you to stop by and check for any items that may belong to your student!

In The News at St. John Paul II



May 2025

Upcoming Events

Friday May 2nd	2pm Early dismissal
Monday May 5th	PSG & School council AGM at 7pm
Tuesday May 6th	Jeans and Rosary shirt Day
Friday May 9th	1pm School Mass 2pm Early dismissal
Tuesday May 13th	Jeans and Rosary shirt Day
Wednesday May 14th	630pm PSG Meeting
Friday May 15th	Thursday ICS Speech Competition
Friday May 16th	NO SCHOOL
Monday May 19th	Victoria Day NO SCHOOL
Tuesday May 20th	Jeans and Rosary shirt Day
Thursday May 22nd	Fine Arts showcase
Friday May 23rd	Crazy Hair or Hat Spirit day Hot Lunch-Pizza day 2pm Early dismissal
Tuesday May 27th	Jeans and Rosary shirt Day Living Rosary
Friday May 30th	2pm Early Dismissal



Feeling sick? Staying home?
Let the office know.
Call 250-723-0637
Email cgogo@cisdv.bc.ca



www.hfnd.com/parishevents

Holy Family Notre Dame Parish

4731 Burke Rd. Port Alberni

Children's Liturgy of the word 9:45-10:30 Bring your children each Sunday through the 2nd office door to the Upstairs Kitchen in time for a 9:45 start to our weekly Faith Formation class; children will rejoin their families at Mass during the Offertory (approx. 10:30 am)

Sunday Mass 10:00am

Coffee and goodies 11:00-12:30 Join us for a time of fellowship following the Sunday mass; coffee, tea, and goodies will be provided by the Hospitality Ministry.

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 pm

In The News at St. John Paul II



May 2025

April Photos



Exchange students from Kobe Japan spent a week at the school and learning about the area.



We welcomed guest Trevor Little to share Nuu-Chah-Nulth culture.



In The News at St. John Paul II



May 2025

Teacher Feature

Div 5



Mr. Brown

If you could have any animal as a classroom pet, what would it be and why?

My 2-year-old cockapoo, Baker. Although if he were here, I'd just want to pet and play with him all day... so maybe not!

What's a fun fact students might not know about you?

I was a member of a world championship-winning marching band when I was 18 years old!

If you could go on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I'd bring the class to the greatest arena in the world—The Saddledome in Calgary!

What's one thing that always makes you smile at school?

Wandering past a Div 1 or Div 2 classroom and seeing our youngest learners in action.

What's your favourite thing to do outside of school?

Lately, I've really enjoyed playing pickleball with the PA Picklers Association!

Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

*Well, I published a book in December! It's called *Stone Won't Tell*, and it's available on Amazon.ca.*

What do you love most about being part of this school community?

I believe in us—the students, their parents, and the staff. I believe that we are all working together to provide a space where children can flourish. And I just LOVE knowing that my "job" is to contribute to this awesome team.

Mrs. Oosterhuis

What was your favorite subject when you were in elementary school? *Science of course!*

If you could have any animal as a classroom pet, what would it be and why? *It would be a Lab because they are the best dogs ever.*

What's your go-to snack during the school day? *Does coffee count?*

What's a fun fact students might not know about you? *I lived in Australia for 8 months and went Bungee jumping in New Zealand*

If you could go on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would you go? *Canoeing on the Nahanni River in the NorthWest Territories*

What's your favorite rainy day activity with students? *I love playing board games*

What's the best part about working together as a teacher and aide team? *Being able to work together to bring what is best for each student*


What's your favorite thing to do outside of school? *Sewing, birding, riding my bike.*

In The News at St. John Paul II



May 2025

Update from our Foster child Lidia


Name: Lidia
Sponsor Name: John Paul II Catholic School

Country	Bolivia		
Site	LEM	Subsite	

Querido Padrino

Les mando un cordial saludo a usted y toda su familia. Quiero expresar mis más sinceros agradecimientos por el regalo especial que me mandó con eso pude comprar un ropero que es lo que necesitó. Quiero agradecerle desde el fondo de mi corazón por su apoyo con personas como usted hace que el mundo sea mejor. Le cuento que gracias al que me brindó pude cumplir muchas de mis metas por lo que yo y mi familia estamos agradecidos. Le cuento que este año tengo muchos planes en mente y poder cumplir mis sueños le agradezco por el apoyo que me brinda todos estos años.

Deseo que este año le vaya bien y pueda lograr todas sus metas. Me despido con un fuerte abrazo y muchas bendiciones para usted y toda su familia.

Con cariño:
Lidia

Author: Lidia
Translator: Andrea Chumacero Carb
Year: 2025

Lidia has completed her studies and is ready to begin an exciting new chapter in her life. We wish her all the very best on her journey ahead! In the coming months, we look forward to welcoming a new foster child into our hearts. Your generous donations during Spirit Days continue to support this meaningful cause—thank you for making a difference.



Dear godfather,

I send a warm greeting to you and your whole family. I want to express my most sincere thanks for the special gift you sent me. With it, I was able to buy a wardrobe, which I really needed. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. With people like you, the world becomes a better place. Let me tell you that thanks to what you gave me, I was able to accomplish many of my goals. My family and I are very grateful. This year I have many plans in mind, and I want to achieve my dreams. Thank you for the support you've given me all these years. I hope this year goes well for you and that you can reach all your goals. I say goodbye with a big hug and many blessings for you and your whole family.

With love,
Lidia



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: redvictoria.org

April 2025

*"Blessed are those who die in the Lord; let them find rest from their labours
for their works accompany them." (Revelation 14:13)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With deep sorrow, we join the whole Church in mourning the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. His witness of faith, his tireless commitment to justice and mercy, and his humble service to the People of God have left an indelible mark on the Church and the world.

Pope Francis led with a heart modelled after Christ's own, calling us to walk together in faith, hope, and love. He was a man who led by his footsteps, walking the talk as a humble servant of the poor and the marginalized. His papacy was one of encounter, listening, and dialogue, urging us to care for our common home, to foster fraternity and social friendship, and to walk the path of reconciliation with humility and sincerity.

His letter, *Laudato Si'* (On Care for Our Common Home), resonated particularly with those of us who call Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands home. We live in the midst of such biodiversity and experience the ongoing challenges interconnected with land and water. Pope Francis' call to ecological conversion reminds us that we are stewards of creation, entrusted with the care of our forests, oceans, and wildlife. And at its heart, the encyclical invites us to care not only for the Earth, but for the human family who lives in the garden of creation.

The Holy Father's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) emphasized the importance of dialogue and social friendship, values that deeply resonate with the people of this Diocese. With the presence of the legislature and the government in the capital, the necessity of meaningful conversation and mutual understanding is ever-present. Likewise, Pope Francis' vision of fraternity speaks directly to our ongoing work of Reconciliation with the many local Indigenous people. His call to walk together in dialogue and respect challenges us to build bridges, seek justice, and foster a society rooted in compassion and shared humanity.

We will never forget his footsteps—or his wheelchair—rolling across Canada during his 2022 pastoral and penitential visit. His most memorable act here was his heartfelt apology for the Church's role in the abuse, cultural destruction, and forced assimilation of Indigenous Peoples. That visit was a profound witness to reconciliation in action. He carried with him not only words of apology, but a visible presence of humility and deep sorrow. His visit was a powerful affirmation of the path the Diocese of Victoria has long been walking: a path of healing, unity, and right relationship.

Pope Francis had an extraordinary sensitivity to human suffering. The son of immigrants himself, he never forgot the plight of the displaced. He wept for the migrants and refugees who perished at sea. He implored bishops and communities to do everything they could to support those who could not support themselves. His heart was always with those on the peripheries—those who the world overlooks.



We remember with gratitude his courageous leadership and prophetic voice, always reminding us of our call to accompany the marginalized, to seek justice for the oppressed, and to extend God's mercy to all. He embodied the Gospel's radical call to love, even in the face of great challenges, always inviting us to rediscover the joy of the Gospel.

As we commend Pope Francis to the loving embrace of our heavenly Father, let us take to heart his enduring legacy. May we continue his vision of building a Church that listens, a Church that heals, and a Church that walks together in faith and love.

I invite you to pray with me for the repose of his soul and for the Church he so faithfully shepherded:

God of endless love and mercy, we give you thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis. Welcome him into your eternal peace, and grant that his witness may continue to inspire us to live as true disciples of Christ. May his example of humility, compassion, and service remain with us, guiding us in the way of truth and love. Amen.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, preceded by a small cross symbol.

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria