



The Roman Catholic

Diocese of  
Prince George

# Wednesday Weekly

*Quarterly Special Edition*

**December 20, 2023**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent / The Nativity of the Lord / December 24, 2023

*Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be done to me according to your word."*

-Luke 1.26-38



## Upcoming Important Dates

- **December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day**
- **January 1, 2024 – The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

## Attachments

- **Winter 2024 Pastoral Care Training Session descriptions**
- **Winter 2024 Pastoral Care Training Session Poster**
- **Winter 2024 Virtual Pastoral Care Training Session registration sheet**
- **Job Posting Accounting Clerk**
- **Job Posting Financial Officer**

- **Job Posting UVic Camosun Chaplain**

## In this issue...

- **[U.S. Bishops: Vatican declaration does not change Church teaching on marriage](#)**
- **[Statement of CCCB on Vatican's Document Addressing Pastoral Blessings](#)**
- **[Simbang Gabi 2023](#)**
- **[Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Sessions – Winter 2024](#)**
- **[Monthly Day of Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament](#)**
- **[Job Postings](#)**

## \*U.S. Bishops: Vatican declaration does not change Church teaching on marriage

On Monday, December 18, 2023, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith issued a declaration titled *Fiducia Supplicans*, addressing the topic of blessing same-sex couples and others in relationships that do not follow Church teaching. Out of context reporting on the new document in secular media has led to some confusion about whether this is a shift in the Church's teaching on marriage.

The Catholic News Agency released an article on Monday covering the topic, drawing from a statement from the U.S. Bishops which affirms Church teaching has not been changed by the new document. The article offers more context and insight into the purpose and details of *Fiducia Supplicans*, including the difference between the purpose of a liturgical and pastoral blessing, and circumstances in which a blessing cannot be given, such as at civil union ceremonies where a pastoral blessing may give an appearance of legitimacy which does not exist.

Please read the article here: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256314/us-bishops-vatican-declaration-does-not-change-church-teaching-on-marriage>

## \*Statement of CCCB on Vatican's Document Addressing Pastoral Blessings

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, the CCCB released a statement regarding the recent publishing of *Fiducia Supplicans* from the Vatican. In the statement, Bishop William McGrattan, president of the CCCB, says: "While explicitly affirming the Church's traditional understanding of marriage, *Fiducia Supplicans* allows pastors to bless people who freely request a blessing, seeking divine help to live in fidelity to God's will. The Declaration makes clear that such blessings must be directed to the persons themselves rather than their situation and that they must be spontaneously requested and are not ritual or liturgical actions."

For the full statement, please visit the CCCB website here: <https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/statement-of-ccb-on-vaticans-document-addressing-pastoral-blessings/>

## Simbang Gabi 2023



Bishop Stephen Jensen was the main celebrant for the Simbang Gabi 2023 on Monday, December 18, 2023 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The church was full for a lively celebration of the Mass. After the Mass, everyone enjoyed the plentiful food served in anticipation of Christmas.

*Simbang Gabi* is the novena of nine consecutive evening Masses leading toward the Solemnity of Christmas. This is to honour both our Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Training Sessions – Winter 2024

The valuable and free Pastoral Care Outreach Training series will be offered online again this winter. Nine sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, **starting on January 20 and running until March 23, 2024** (with no session on March 9 for Spring Break). Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or Smart Phone with speakers, microphone and webcam, a reliable Internet connection, and access to Zoom. **Please register through your local parish by January 12.** For further information, please email [moiraking@shaw.ca](mailto:moiraking@shaw.ca).

## Monthly Day of Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to a *Personal Date with Jesus* on **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at the Domano Chapel, 6500 Southridge Ave. Mass will be celebrated at **7:30 AM** and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM for a day of silent prayer and adoration. We will pray for the universal Church and the world, and for the people and needs of our Diocese. In particular we will pray for the protection of all human life, for all the sick, for vocations, for Peace in our world, and for the intentions of those participating in the day. Please mark your calendar on the second Tuesday of each month for *Personal Date with Jesus* days.

## Job Postings

The Diocese of Victoria is looking to fill several available positions:

- **Accounting Clerk:** The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is seeking a full-time Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk with a strong financial background and excellent organizational skills. The deadline for application is January 5, 2024. Please see the attached job posting for details or visit here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>
- **Financial Officer:** The Diocese of Victoria, located in beautiful British Columbia, is recruiting for the position of Financial Officer. The Financial Officer serves as the financial administrator of the Diocese and reports directly to the Bishop. This is an exceptional opportunity for an individual who wants to be part of the Diocese's senior management team and to oversee the stewardship of the organization's fiscal resources in support of the mission of the Diocese. The position of Financial Officer is an ecclesiastical office which is open to lay persons, and is governed by the provisions of the Code of Canon Law. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please see the attached job posting for details or visit here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>
- **UVic Camosun Chaplain:** The Diocese of Victoria, located in beautiful British Columbia, is accepting applications for the position of Roman Catholic Campus Chaplain. The Catholic Chaplain reports directly to the Bishop of Victoria, or his delegate. We seek a Chaplain who is committed to helping students grow and flourish within the Catholic faith tradition while living and learning in a secular campus environment. The Chaplain will work in collaboration with the Catholic Christian Outreach team, and a *Multifaith Chaplaincy* team at the University of Victoria. The successful Chaplain will be committed to meeting a stranger on the road, envisaging and engendering an open world, and nurturing connections across many religious and secular communities. The deadline for application is January 5, 2024. Please see the attached job posting for details or visit here: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>

## Diocesan Pastoral Centre Christmas and New Year Hours

The diocesan pastoral centre will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 inclusive, reopening on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

*The Wednesday Weekly will resume on  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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### Want to share news in the Wednesday Weekly?

Email [reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca) by **NOON** on Tuesday.

*Late entries will be published in the following week's edition. Please send in Word format.*

### To receive all diocesan news directly in your inbox or on your phone

email [reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:reception@pgdiocese.bc.ca) **OR TEXT** "pgd" to 514-900-0130 to join **Flocknote**. This is an email and text messaging tool created for churches, ministries, teams and other community organizations. It helps to communicate with the people by sending a simple text message. Please join us in keeping up with all the diocesan news.