



Parish Profiles

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The parish profiles that follow were compiled from questionnaires sent in December 2007 to each parish in the Archdiocese. Information was provided to us by pastors, parish secretaries and parish historians, whose contributions we sincerely acknowledge. The profiles provide an overview of the history of each of the seventy-seven active parishes of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, from the oldest, St. Peter's (New Westminster), established in 1860, to the newest, Divine Mercy, established in 2008 and situated in Holy Family Church in Vancouver. Even a casual survey of the profiles will reveal that the majority of parishes (42) were established during the episcopacy of Archbishop William Duke (1931–1964). This number includes defunct and active parishes as well as those transferred to other dioceses, such as the Diocese of Nelson (1936) and the Diocese of Kamloops (1945). For a chronology that includes all parishes, please refer to Appendix 1.—*Anthea Seles, Archivist, Archdiocese of Vancouver*

All Saints	Our Lady of Perpetual of Help	St. Joseph's (Port Moody)
Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady of Sorrows	St. Joseph's (Squamish)
Canadian Martyrs	Our Lady of the Assumption	St. Joseph's (Vancouver)
Christ the Redeemer	Precious Blood	St. Jude's
Church of the Assumption	Sacred Heart (Delta)	St. Luke's
Corpus Christi	Sacred Heart (Vancouver)	St. Mary's (Chilliwack)
Divine Mercy Quasi Parish	St. Andrew Kim	St. Mary's (Gibsons)
Good Shepherd	St. Andrew's	St. Mary's (Vancouver)
Guardian Angels	St. Ann's	St. Matthew's
Holy Cross (Burnaby)	St. Anthony of Padua (Agassiz)	St. Michael's
Holy Cross (Crescent Beach)	St. Anthony of Padua (Vancouver)	St. Monica's
Holy Family (Sechelt)	St. Anthony's	St. Nicholas
Holy Family (Vancouver)	St. Augustine's	St. Patrick's (Maple Ridge)
Holy Name of Jesus	St. Bernadette	St. Patrick's (Vancouver)
Holy Rosary Cathedral	St. Casimir's	St. Paul's (North Vancouver)
Holy Spirit	St. Clare of Assisi	St. Paul's (Richmond)
Holy Trinity	St. Edmund's	St. Paul's (Vancouver)
Immaculate Conception (Delta)	St. Francis de Sales	St. Peter's (New Westminster)
Immaculate Conception (Vancouver)	St. Francis of Assisi	St. Pius X
Immaculate Heart of Mary	St. Francis Xavier	St. Stephen's
Our Lady of Fatima (Coquitlam)	St. Helen's	St. Theresa's
Our Lady of Fatima (Vancouver)	St. Ignatius of Antioch	Sts. Cyril and Methodius
Our Lady of Good Counsel	St. James	Sts. Joachim and Ann
Our Lady of Good Hope	St. John the Apostle	Sts. Peter and Paul
Our Lady of Hungary	St. Joseph the Worker	Star of the Sea
Our Lady of Lourdes	St. Joseph's (Langley)	Good Shepherd
Our Lady of Mercy	St. Joseph's (Mission)	Holy Cross

ST. PETER'S | 1860

330 Royal Avenue, New Westminster

In 1860, at Bishop Modeste Demers' request, Father Leon Fouquet, Father Charles Grandidier, Brother Francois-Norbert Blanchet, and Brother Gaspar Janin were sent by Father Louis-Joseph d'Herbomez (superior of the Oblates on the Pacific coast, based at Esquimalt on Vancouver Island) to establish a mission on the mainland. In September 1860 they began clearing land in New Westminster. The Brothers built a log cabin, which served as a house and a church. They also built a log cabin for Father Grandidier at Hope. The parish served four missions – St. Mary's (Mission), Fort Douglas, Hope and Yale – all of which eventually became autonomous.



St Peter's was one of the first parishes opened in what is now the Lower Mainland.

In 1861 two small churches were built: St. Peter's on the original site at the corner of Blackwood and Columbia Streets for the townsfolk and St. Charles at the corner of Blackwood and Agnes Streets for Native people.

(St. Charles also served as a residence where Natives stayed for weeks at a time learning their catechism and prayers.)

The St. Peter's building was damaged in a windstorm in 1934, and a new church was built on the present site at Royal Avenue and 4th Street. This church was blessed April 19, 1939. The parish mission statement is based on Luke 4:18.

St. Louis College operated from 1864 to 1917 as a boys' school staffed by Oblates. The Oblates also staffed Nazareth Seminary, the diocesan seminary, which ran from 1896 to 1909.

The Sisters of Saint Ann established St. Ann's Academy in 1865 as a school for girls. By the 1900s the Sisters also taught primary boys' classes at the academy. In 1917 they took over the St. Louis College building for use by St. Peter's School for young boys. In 1954 a new St. Peter's School for girls and boys (Grades 1 to 8) was built. St. Ann's Academy continued as a high school for girls until 1968. The Sisters of Saint Ann left St. Peter's School in 1973, and the school closed in 1976. The Sisters of Saint Ann continued to serve in the parish. The Sisters of Providence served in what was St. Mary's Hospital from 1887 to 2004.

In 1979 the parish began a program of sponsoring refugees. It has welcomed almost three dozen refugees from Vietnam, Poland, Ethiopia, Croatia and Sudan.

The annual parish picnic was originally in the form of a tea on the grounds of the church on Columbia as early as 1910. Other events include the parish bazaar and suppers. Lay organizations include the Knights of Columbus (since 1907), Catholic Women's League (since 1923), Society of St. Vincent De Paul (since 1959), Development and Peace (since 1967), Social Justice (since 1979) and Friends of St. Mary's Hospital. The Oblates have served the parish since the beginning.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1860–1867	Fr. Leon Fouquet, OMI	1922–1926	Fr. Jean Baptiste Salles, OMI	1967–1968	Fr. Anthony MacDonald, OMI
1867–1882	Fr. Edward Horris, OMI	1926–1932	Fr. Stephen Murphy, OMI	1968–1971	Fr. Richard Griffin, OMI
1882–1889	Fr. James McGuckin, OMI	1932–1933	Fr. Bartholomew Kennedy, OMI	1971–1974	Fr. Gerald Dunlop, OMI
1889–1890	Fr. Frederic Guertin, OMI	1933–1937	Fr. Daniel McCullough, OMI	1974–1981	Fr. John McCann, OMI
1890–1896	Fr. Norbert Ouellette, OMI	1937–1943	Fr. William Loftus, OMI	1981–1987	Fr. Oliver Mohan, OMI
1896–1900	Fr. Joseph Morgan, OMI	1943–1949	Fr. Patrick J. Phelan, OMI	1987–1989	Fr. Bruce McCormick, OMI
1900–1902	Fr. Emile Bunoz, OMI	1949–1953	Fr. Louis Keighley, OMI	1989–1996	Fr. William. McDonald, OMI
1902–1906	Fr. John O'Neill, OMI	1953–1955	Fr. Leonard Sweeney, OMI	1996–2005	Fr. Jim Jordan, OMI
1906–1913	Fr. William O'Boyle, OMI	1955–1961	Fr. William Malloy, OMI	2005–present	Fr. Martin Moser, OMI
1913–1922	Fr. Felix Beck, OMI	1961–1967	Fr. John Hennessey, OMI		

ST. PAUL'S | 1873

424 West Esplanade Avenue, North Vancouver

This was the first church of any denomination built in greater Vancouver. Although the exact dates are uncertain, the Oblate missionaries were working among the Natives approximately ten years before the first chapel was built. Mass was being celebrated on the shores of Burrard Inlet by 1860, and the first chapel was erected in 1866. The parish was established by Father Leon Fouquet. A second and larger church replaced the chapel in 1884. It was renovated in 1910, when a second steeple was added.

The parish supports one mission, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation reserve, legally known as Burrard Inlet Indian Reserve No. 3. The parish has supported St. Paul's School and St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School. Annual events include a Christmas concert, a spring sale, and a bazaar. Lay organizations include the Save St. Paul's Society (1984–2004) and the St. Paul's Preservation Fund (established in 1987 to provide funds for major repairs as needed). The Oblates of Mary Immaculate continue to serve the parish.



St. Paul's (North Vancouver) was renovated in 1910 during which time a second steeple was added.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1894–1899	Bishop Pierre-Paul Durieu, OMI	1940–1942	Fr. Herbert Dunlop, OMI	1969–1974	Fr. Joseph Rossiter, OMI
1899–1907	Fr. Pierre Richard, OMI	1942–1945	Fr. Francis Quinlan, OMI	1974–1975	Fr. Alex Morris, OMI
1907–1915	Fr. Edmond Peytavin, OMI	1945–1952	Fr. Paul Clarke, OMI	1975–1976	Fr. Larry Mackey, OMI
1916–1917	Fr. Heinrich Boening, OMI	1952–1955	Fr. Alex Morris, OMI	1976–1982	Fr. Harold O'Connor, OMI
1917–1920	Fr. Pierre Plamondon, OMI	1956	Fr. Edward Brown, OMI	1982–1983	Fr. Tom Lascelles, OMI
1920–1921	Fr. William Brabender, OMI	1956–1961	Fr. Francis Price, OMI	1983–1984	Fr. Alex Morris, OMI
1921–1937	Fr. E. Claude Bellot, OMI	1961–1962	Fr. Jack Hennessey, OMI	1984–1985	Fr. Tom Lascelles, OMI
1937–1939	Fr. Archibald Fleury, OMI	1962–1963	Fr. Ronald Blacquiére, OMI	1985–1999	Fr. Dennis Alexander, OMI
1939–1940	Fr. Jim McGrath, OMI	1964–1969	Fr. Alex Simpson, OMI	1999–present	Fr. Vincent LaPlante, OMI

HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL | 1885

646 Richards Street, Vancouver

In 1885, Bishop d’Herbomez, vicar apostolic of British Columbia, appointed Father Patrick Fay, who had arrived as a chaplain to the gangs building the Canadian Pacific Railway, to look after the growing population of the small settlements of Hastings and Gastown. Father Fay offered the first Mass on the first Sunday of October 1885, though the location is not clear. In 1886 regular services were being offered to the sixty-nine Catholic families of Vancouver in Blair’s Hall on Abbott Street and Keefer’s Hall at Alexander and Water Streets.

It is said that Father Fay chose the location of the church by pointing to the highest tree on the skyline and announcing, “We choose the section surrounding the base of that tree.” It is this site on which the present building stands.

Father Fay was transferred in 1892 and for about a year the parish was served from New Westminster, which had become the seat of the diocese. Father H. Eummelen was appointed parish priest in 1893, and he built the structure that served as the rectory until 1934.

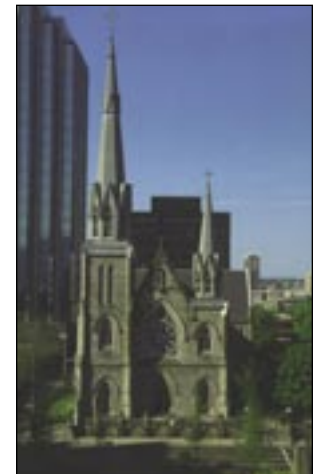
In 1898, when Father J.M. McGuckin was pastor, a decision was made to replace the wooden building with a larger permanent church to serve the rapidly growing community. The cornerstone of the present cathedral was laid July 16, 1899, with all the ceremony such an occasion demanded. On December 9, 1900, the solemn blessing of the new church was performed by Rt. Rev. A. Christie, archbishop of Portland, Oregon, and the Pontifical Mass was celebrated by Rt. Rev. B. Orth, bishop of Victoria.

A notable feature of the cathedral is its bells. They were originally seven. Cast by George and Francis Paccard at Annecy-le-Vieux in Savoy, France, they range in weight from 700 to 5,000 pounds (320 to 2,270 kg). They were anointed inside and out with the sign of the cross and named after the seven sacraments. However, they did not comprise a full octave, so some years later they were sent to England, where they were spliced and an eighth bell was added to make the peal complete. It took a special order-in-council to permit them to re-enter Canada tax-free.

In 1908, under Bishop Augustine Dontenwill, the diocese of New Westminster was suppressed, and Vancouver was established as the seat of the archdiocese, with Bishop Dontenwill becoming the first archbishop. He resigned that same year, having been elected superior general of his order. Father John Welch was administrator until 1910, when Archbishop Neil McNeil was named archbishop of Vancouver. Two years later he was transferred to Toronto and replaced by Archbishop Timothy Casey, who served until 1931.

It was in 1916, during the administration of Archbishop Casey, that the Church of the Holy Rosary was declared a “cathedral.” A significant event was the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1984. The organ and pipes have been restored, and new pews, a new floor and a sound system have been installed.

An annual organ concert series has been held since 2000. Lay organizations include the Legion of Mary and Catholic Women’s League. The Sisters of Saint Ann operated St. Ann’s Academy next door to Holy Rosary Church from 1888 to 1946. The Oblates ministered at the parish from 1893 to 1927.



Holy Rosary Cathedral was declared a Cathedral in 1916, eight years after the seat of the Archdiocese was moved to Vancouver.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1885–1892	Fr. Patrick Fay	1938–1939	Very Rev. Aidan Angle	1959–1965	Very Rev. Paul Foran
1893–1897	Fr. Henry Eummelen, OMI	1939	Msgr. Leo Hobson	1965–1966	Very Rev. Albert Zsigmond
1897–1898	Fr. Pierre Dommeau, OMI	1939–1943	Msgr. John Miles	1967–1982	Msgr. Peter Mallon
1898–1903	Fr. James McGuckin, OMI	1943–1944	Very Rev. John Hanrahan	1982–1995	Msgr. David Monroe
1904–1913	Fr. John Welch, OMI	1944	Very Rev. Richard Carroll	1995–2002	Very Rev. James P. Comey
1913–1927	Fr. William O’Boyle, OMI	1945–1946	Very Rev. James Carney	2002–2003	Msgr. Donald Neumann
1927–1929	Msgr. Joseph McDonald	1946–1949	Msgr. Francis Clinton	2003–2004	Msgr. Stephen Jensen
1929–1931	Very Rev. Wilbert MacKenzie	1949–1952	Very Rev. James Masse	2004–present	Very Rev. Glenn Dion
1932–1937	Msgr. Thomas Nichol	1952–1959	Msgr. John Stewart		

OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE | 1894

671 Water Street, Hope

Father Leon Fouquet chose Fort Hope as the site for one of the first Catholic churches in the province, and Father Charles Grandidier and Brother Gaspar Janin built a small chapel on the corner of Park Street and Water Avenue in 1860. Another church was built in 1913, and the present church was built a block away in 1948. A parish hall was built later. The church was renovated in 2006–07.

Visiting Oblates of Mary Immaculate served the church in the early years and were resident pastors of the parish from 1963 to 1999. The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception served in the parish from 1972 to 1998.

The parish has supported missions to outlying areas and reserves such as Peters, Shxwowhamel, Union Bar, Chawathil, Ruby Creek, Skawahlook, Yale, Spuzzum, Boston Bar, Boothroyd, Ross Road, North Bend and Anderson Creek.

Annual events include an outdoor Mass in the parish cemetery; Good Friday, Marian and Corpus Christi walks; a St. Patrick's Tea; and a fall dinner. Lay organizations include the Catholic Women's Auxiliary and Knights of Columbus.



Our Lady of Good Hope was founded by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1860 and a chapel was built at the corner of Park Street and Water Avenue.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1860	Fr. Charles Grandidier, OMI	1961–1962	Fr. John Holzapfel	1982–1986	Fr. Michael Kearney, OMI
1913	Fr. Claude Bellot, OMI,	1962–1963	Fr. Karl Bohnenberger	1986–1992	Fr. Kevin Silke, OMI
1913	Fr. Eugene Casimir Chirouse, OMI	1963–1966	Fr. Michael Kearney, OMI	1992–1997	Fr. Thomas Lascelles, OMI
1914–1946	Unknown	1966–1968	Fr. Richard Griffin, OMI	1994	Fr. Oscar Pauwels, OMI
1946–1953	Fr. Hugh MacIsaac	1968–1974	Fr. Fred S. McWade, OMI	1994–1999	Fr. John Hennessey, OMI
1953–1955	Fr. Joseph Fouquette	1974–1979	Fr. Francis Price, OMI	1999–2005	Fr. David Hughes
1955–1957	Fr. George Gordon	1979–1980	Fr. Alex Morris, OMI	2005–2008	Fr. John Tritschler
1957–1960	Fr. Christopher Vermeulen	1980–1982	Fr. Frank Price, OMI	2008–present	Fr. Peter Altamirano, OMI

ST. MARY'S | 1894

8909 Mary Street, Chilliwack

The first church was built in 1894 by a Frenchman called Lasserne. It was served by Father Pierre Dommeau and Father Joseph Morgan. Once a month, for many years, a priest came east from New Westminster or across the Fraser River from St. Mary's in Mission to say Mass. The parish continued to grow. A new church in another location was built in 1908 and another church in the late 1920s, blessed by Archbishop William Duke September 26, 1935.

St. Mary's School was built in 1948. The present church was built on Mary Street next to the school in 1955 and blessed by the Most Rev. Martin M. Johnson December 11, 1955.

The parish supports two missions, St. Theresa's (for the Yakwekwioose Band) and St. Mary Magdalene (for the Cheam Band). The parish also supports St. John Brebeuf Regional Secondary School in Abbotsford. In addition, the parish operates Mother Teresa's Place (a thrift store) and a weekly food bank available to parishioners and the community at large.



St. Mary's (Chilliwack) was initially an Oblate mission and the Oblates would come from New Westminster or from across the Fraser River at Mission to offer Mass.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1933–1939	Fr. Michael Kennedy	1969–1979	Fr. Duncan Goguillot	1990–1992	Fr. Ronald Thompson
1939–1940	Fr. Bernard Corcoran	1969–1979	Fr. Michael Bach,	1992–2006	Fr. Gary Gordon
1940–1946	Fr. Maurice Hanley	1969–1979	Fr. Anthony Verrall	2006–present	Fr. Paul Than Bui
1946–1963	Fr. Gordon McKinnon	1979–1981	Fr. Joseph Franks		
1963–1969	Fr. James Fagan	1981–1990	Fr. Timothy McCarthy		

SACRED HEART | 1905

525 Campbell Avenue, Vancouver

The parish began in 1905 in a Protestant church building at the corner of Keefer Street and Campbell Avenue. This building was destroyed by fire in 1948, and a new building opened on the same site in 1949. This building was remodelled and renovated for the one hundredth anniversary.

The parish supports St. Paul's Church in Vancouver as a mission. Sacred Heart also supports Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Native Centre at 887 Keefer Street next door to the church, welcoming urban First Nations people to worship and care. This ministry is served by Rev. Ken Forster, OMI, Rev. Aloys Luken, OMI, and Brother Ed Lynch.

As well, the parish operates the Agape Street Ministry. Workers walk through the neighbourhood every night reaching out to hundreds of streetwalkers, giving them a bag of candy, calling them by name, remembering them on their birthdays with a small gift, praying with them, and encouraging them to take the step to recovery. Agape operates two transition houses in the Metro Vancouver area.

In 1940 the parish opened a school at 884 East Pender Street, served by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of Saint John, New Brunswick.

The school closed in 1983. Lay organizations include the Catholic Women's League (1952–1990, led by the Salesians) and the Legion of Mary (established in 1994 and led by Dan O'Reilly).

Known vocations from Sacred Heart Church and School are Sister Carmel Stancato, SCIC; Sister Mary Mallon, SSTA; Sister Catherine Fujisawa, SA; Sister Margaret Fujisawa, SA; and Rev. C. Hart, OFM. The parish has been served by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (1905–1911, 1990–present), the Praemonstratensians (1925–1933), the Stigmatine Congregation (1936–1952), the Franciscans (1952) and the Salesian Fathers (1952–1990).



Sacred Heart (Vancouver) was the second parish to be created for the City of Vancouver.

LIST OF PASTORS

1905–1907	Fr. Norbert Ouellette, OMI	1928–1933	Fr. William J. Millay, O.Praem	1985–1990	Fr. James Collins, SDB
1907–1911	Fr. François Lardon, OMI	1933–1936	Rev. William Blackburn	1992–1994	Fr. Melvin Cropley, OMI
1911–1918	Fr. Joseph F. McNeil	1936–1951	Fr. Joachim Bortignon, CPS	1994–2005	Fr. Robert W. Douglas, OMI
1918–1925	Fr. William R. Yahner	1951–1952	Fr. Camillo Santini, CPS	2005–2007	Fr. Otto Rollheiser, OMI
1925–1928	Fr. Norbert Corley, O.Praem	1952–1984	Fr. Joseph Della-Torre, SDB	2007–present	Fr. Ken Forster, OMI

OUR LADY OF LOURDES | 1909

828 Laval Square, Coquitlam

Mass was held every Sunday in a room above the Fraser Mills company store beginning September 27, 1909. The parish moved to Our Lady of Lourdes Church (the French “Notre Dame de Lourdes” was originally used) at 828 Laval Square, and the church was blessed December 11, 1910. This church burned down February 26, 1912. A temporary church was built. The present church was built on the first church’s foundation and blessed November 6, 1938.

A school began in 1909 in a room above the Fraser Mills company store. An elementary school opened on the church grounds August 26, 1911, and operated there until 1960. A high school was built on Hammond Avenue in 1950 and operated until 1970. A new convent/elementary school was built on Rochester Avenue in 1960 and operated until 1996. The parish no longer operates a school, and the site on Rochester Avenue is being rented out to the Traditional Learning Academy, a private school. The Sisters of the Child Jesus taught in the schools from 1909 to 1952 and 1968 to 1983. The Ursulines of Rimouski taught in the schools from 1952 to 1967.

Lay organizations include the Ladies of Ste. Anne (since 1917), Knights of Columbus (since 1949), Espiritu Cru (youth group), Legion of Mary, Outreach to Seniors, Pro-Life Prayer Group, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer Group and World Apostolate of Fatima Prayer Group. The parish was served by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (1909–1911), the Praemonstratensian Canons (1916–1948) and the Franciscans (1953–2002).



Our Lady of Lourdes was the first French parish in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1909–1911	Fr. Edmond Maillard, OMI	1929–1948	Fr. Xavier Teck, O.Praem	1975–1982	Fr. Gerard Chabot, OFM
1911	Fr. Charles Pelletier	1948–1951	Fr. Paul Emile Vanier	1982–2007	Fr. Stan Frytek, OFM
1912	Fr. Emile deWilde	1951–1953	Fr. Joseph Fouquette	2007	Fr. Bruce McAllister
1912–1916	Fr. Emmanuel Garon	1953–1970	Fr. Albéric Fréchette, OFM	2008	Fr. Gabriel de Chadarévian, OP
1916–1929	Fr. Alexandre L. deLestré, O.Praem	1970–1975	Fr. Paul Surette, OFM	2008–present	Fr. Alan Boisclair

ST. PATRICK'S | 1910

2881 Main Street, Vancouver

This parish was established in 1910 by the Oblate Fathers. The first church was completed and blessed in February 1910. The pastors changed frequently until 1917, when Archbishop Timothy Casey persuaded Father Louis Forget, whom he had met in Portland, Oregon, to take charge of St. Patrick's. He remained at the church until his death January 22, 1964.

In 1921, Father Forget made a speaking tour in the United States to raise money for the construction of a school, which was opened and blessed by Archbishop Casey on September 8, 1922. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto were asked to teach. Grades 9 and 10 were added at the beginning of 1925, and in 1930 a property on 11th Avenue at Quebec Street was purchased for a high school. More recently St. Patrick's High School became St. Patrick's Regional Secondary School.

A church committee was formed that raised a great deal of money for improvements, repairs, and construction of the church, rectory, school buildings and convent. The new church facing Main Street was built in 2002 and the new recreation centre in 2004.

Annual events include San Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day (September), Missa de Gallo (nine-day Novena Masses before Christmas) and the Feast of St. Patrick (March 17). Lay organizations include Catholic Women's League, Domestic Abuse Society—Our Lady of Good Counsel, Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, Life Teen and St. Patrick's Seniors Group.



Msgr. Louis Forget was pastor for St. Patrick's (Vancouver) for 47 years and encouraged many vocations in the diocese.

LIST OF PASTORS

1910	Fr. William McCullough, OMI	1917–1964	Msgr. Louis Forget	1995–2005	Fr. Donald Larson
1910–1911	Fr. F.C. Campbell	1964–1976	Msgr. John Teague	2005–present	Fr. Vincent Hawkswell
1911–1913	Fr. Austin Bonner	1976–1979	Fr. Paul Foran		
1914–1917	Fr. Maurice Power	1979–1995	Fr. William Somerville		

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION | 1911

7109 Glacier Street, Powell River

Although there were missionaries coming to the Powell River area as early as the mid-1870s, a church was not built until 1911. St. Joseph's Church was built by the Powell River (Logging Pulp & Paper) Company. Within a few years, the number of Catholics attending Mass grew beyond the confines of that small church, and so Fr. J.F. Van Wetten began building a new church; it was finished in 1916 under the direction of Fr. Joseph B. McDonald. In the 1960s, the name used for the parish was unofficially changed from St. Joseph's to Church of the Assumption. A new parish centre was completed in 2006 and blessed January 13, 2007, by Archbishop Raymond Roussin.



Church of the Assumption (Powell River) was originally named St. Joseph's. The name was unofficially changed in the 1960s.

Assumption School opened in 1961. The Missionary Sisters of Nazareth taught there. Grades 8 and 9 have since been added.

The parish has two missions, Sacred Heart (to the Sliammon First Nation) and St. Ferardi Church (an Italian parish). Annual events include a golf tournament, a Christmas bazaar, a parish mission, a forty-hour devotion, Understanding the Catholic Faith, marriage preparation, Procession to Calvary, In Honour of Our Lady, Procession in Honour of St. Joseph, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Walk for Life, and Life Chain.

Lay organizations and activities include Alpha, altar boys, Birthright, bingo, Catechism, Catholic Women's League, choirs, Faith and Light, Finance Committee, Knights of Columbus, lectors, Living Rosary, Maranatha Prayer Group, Natural Family Planning, parish library, Parish Pastoral Council, People Helping People, Project Advance, Pro-Life and youth ministry. The parish has been served by the Praemonstratensian Fathers as well as the Oblates.

LIST OF PASTORS					
1911	Fr. Austin Bonner	1935–1940	Fr. Leo Hobson	1958–1967	Fr. John Collins
1911–1912	Fr. Joseph McDonald	1940–1941	Fr. Lawrence Bourrie	1967–1970	Fr. Joseph O'Grady
1912–1926	Fr. Francis de Coccola	1941–1945	Fr. Daniel McCullough, OMI	1970–1978	Fr. Victor Gallo
1916–1920	Fr. Joseph B. McDonald	1945–1946	Fr. Anthony MacDonald, OMI	1978–1995	Fr. Arthur Dickenson
1920–1928	Fr. J.F. Van Wetten, O.Praem	1946–1947	Fr. Leo Hobson	1995–present	Fr. Bruce-John Hamilton
1928–1935	Fr. Norbert Corley, O.Praem	1947–1958	Fr. Joseph McInerney		