

Diocese of Victoria
Pastoral Care Outreach training sessions
Fall 2024

- Sample announcement script -

Good morning. As *(the Pastoral Care Coordinator / a Past Graduate / a Parish Council member / etc)*, thank you for the opportunity to share some important information about the Diocese of Victoria's upcoming Pastoral Care Outreach training.

In this free online program, participants learn how to accompany the lonely, sick, elderly, palliative, and the dying. The training is for those who are interested in being pastoral care visitors to homebound and shut-ins and in hospitals and long-term care facilities. It's also for those who wish to gain skills to help care for their family members, friends, and neighbours, or as a personal undertaking

As Bishop Gary has said, *"In these sessions, you learn tools necessary to tenderly touch the lives of those who are in need of the healing ministry of Christ."*

The next series of Pastoral Care Outreach training sessions will be held via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – noon, from September 28 til November 30. A beautiful Certificate of Completion is provided to those who attend all nine sessions.

Participants will require a phone number and email address, a computer, tablet or smartphone that has a web camera and microphone, a reliable Internet connection and Zoom access. To register, please contact the parish office by September 13. I will also be at the back of the church after Mass this morning to answer any questions you might have.

One attendee of these training sessions shared: *"I feel so graced to have been "called" to participate in these learning sessions. I feel wrapped in God's arms as He leads me to grow in compassion and awareness of the opportunities to serve as Jesus served."*

So, this is an invitation for you, like the Good Samaritan, while reflecting the image of Christ, to walk by the side of the road of our own lives; to be good neighbours to one another, and especially, to our sisters and brothers in need of a loving and healing presence. As Pope Francis reminded us on the 2024 World Day of the Sick, *"the sick, the vulnerable, and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention"*.

Thank you and God bless.