

**Diocese of Victoria
Pastoral Care Outreach training sessions
Winter 2025**

- 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.

Pope Francis has called on all Catholics, with the love for one another that Christ the Lord bestows on us in prayer, especially in the Eucharist, to tend to the wounds of solitude and isolation found particularly among the sick.

In the free online Pastoral Care Outreach training 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 February 1 til April 5, with a break on March 8. Missed session can be made-up, and a beautiful Certificate of Completion is provided to those who complete 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 January 21. 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.

Thank you and God bless.