



Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Administration and Finance

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC , V8X 2A1 — Tel: (250) 479-1331 — Fax: (250) 479-5423 — Web: redvictoria.org

DATE: August 15, 2019
TO: Parishioners, Parishes and Pastors
FROM: Leah MacKenzie, Chief Financial Officer
Re: New targeted fraud and money scams

Please be aware of new fraud and money scams, via email, phone and text message. Unfortunately, well meaning parishioners are often the target. Please act with caution and be prudent when it comes to responding to requests for money, even from someone claiming to be a priest or from individuals within the Church community. Our Diocesan policy prohibits priests from soliciting money for personal needs.

Priests and church employees will not request payments of gift cards, bitcoin, wire transfers, and e-transfers. All donations for legitimate parish and diocesan activities are through traditional verifiable methods and to the charitable organization, not individuals.

Before you give money to anyone or any organization; **stop** and talk to a trusted friend or relative to determine the authenticity, appropriateness and validity of the request or call the Diocesan Finance Office 250-479-1331.

If you feel that you have been the victim of a financial scam, you are encouraged to make a report to the police.

Please see the BC government website for a list of common scams and some resources:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/seniors/financial-legal-matters/scams-and-fraud>