

**Enews to the St. Mark's Pews**  
**60th Edition May 21, 2021**  
**St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792**  
**Niagara-on-the Lake, ON**  
***Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!***

This has been a week of meetings for me - because I sit on a number of national boards and committees, the months of May and November are often cram packed with semi-annual gatherings, made in these days much easier in some ways (no airports, no suitcases to pack, no 'travel days') but so much harder in other ways - too many hours in front of the ubiquitous 'zoom' screen, no informal and personal gatherings, no meals and breaks in common wherein so much of community grace and gift happens. Nevertheless, this was a week of learning, prayers, and significant reflection for me and for that I am grateful, particularly when the week also included the 'usual' gatherings here - Bible study, Morning Prayer, and an important meeting of Parish Council, with the Rector designate in attendance.

The Canadian Council of Churches is a national body, with 24 denominations/national church members, plus another dozen or so affiliate and observer members. It is a very important centre for advocacy and education and has, for 75 years, been an important part of the Canadian social fabric. I am one of three representatives to the Governing Board representing the Anglican Church of Canada, one of the founding churches of the Council. A three day zoom meeting is a deep challenge and yet our meeting this week was inspiring and informative, particularly as the Council deliberated over a new three year action plan, elected a new leadership team, and spent an incredible hour over an hour with the Prime Minister and four federal Cabinet ministers. The Council, through its boards and commissions, is deeply involved in social policy and government relations. There is, through all of its work, a tremendous sense of generosity as we work together, value each others' faith traditions, denominational polities, and theological and ecclesiological differences.

It is that generosity which most inspires me - a generosity which points us to identifying and celebrating the many things which unify us and not the things which separate us. It is a particularly poignant message of Pentecost.

The other meeting in which I participated this week was the semi-annual Board meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Anglican Foundation of Canada. I have had a long relationship with the Foundation, having been a member and donor for many years and served on the Board of Directors for 12 years. Recently, I have been doing some contract work with the Foundation as a consultant. For 65 years, the Anglican Foundation has generously supported the work of the church in Canada from coast to coast to coast. Built on the premise that Anglicans are generous (and they are!) The Foundation, through a programme of grants, bursaries, and loans, supports innovative ministry and community programmes to the tune of almost \$1 million per year distributed across the dioceses and parishes. It is such a good news story, and such a privilege for me to be involved in its activities. An exciting new campaign, Say Yes! To Kids has just been launched, with a modest goal of \$100,000.00 (we hope to exceed this amount) which will be directed, through a targeted grant programme, to projects directed at children, youth and young adults affected by the pandemic, and the many ways in which their specific needs can be addressed. You may want to read more about this campaign or about the Foundation in general - [www.anglicanfoundation.org/kids](http://www.anglicanfoundation.org/kids). A significant matching gift of \$25,000

has been given anonymously by a family in memory of two family members, and diocesan teams (including one here in Niagara) are doing all sorts of creative things to raise matching funds - even a dollar at a time. The wonderful thing about the Foundation is that, through our individual generosity, we can pay it forward - supporting new ideas now that can make such a difference in the future, and sharing our generosity amongst our brothers and sisters across the country. I commend it to you.

So, it has been a meeting when my thoughts have been focused on generosity - the generosity of many churches working together in unity for the whole church, and the generosity of so many Anglicans across this country, sharing from their abundance so that others may learn and grow. That generosity is part of the overwhelming goodness of Pentecost - the generosity of God who encourages us to speak our truth, while making sure that we all can hear and be heard.

What generous gifts are those!

Happy Pentecost

Peter

**Collect:** Creator Spirit, make the dry bones of our lives live and breathe and grow again. Pour out your Spirit upon the whole creation. Come in rushing wind and flashing fire to turn the sin and sorrow within us into faith, power and delight. **Amen.**

### **Hymn # 250: "Soaring Spirit, Set Us Free"**

Soaring Spirit, set us free from the tyranny of fear;  
life of glorious liberty, let your promised power appear:  
drown the noise of Babel's tongues in the murmur of the dove;  
burn away our wasting wrongs with the healing fire of love.

Unseen member of the dance that unites the Trinity,  
let the grace your presence grants twine us in like mystery.  
Breath of God, our lives inspire till our hope and faith increase;  
Speak through us with tongues of fire; send us forth to spread God's peace.

## **PARISH UPDATES**

### ***Keeping in Touch On-line***

*Our Sunday morning services are **streamed** on Facebook at 10:00 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page. The service will be uploaded to YouTube also by 10:00 in the morning.*

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNfOGbuxrfIjW4sOXzQ>

*Our Facebook and YouTube channels can also be accessed through our website: <https://stmarksnotl.org/>*

*Please call me: (905-317-0546, anytime) or the church office if problems.*

*Please, stay safe!*

*Fr. Peter*

## **WARDEN'S LETTER**

It has been a busy and informative week. Lots of activity with Bible study on Monday and Parish Council on Tuesday and our soon-to-be Rector The Very Reverend Leighton Lee joined in and met members of PC. We had our usual Wednesday morning service and again Leighton joined in and met more members of St. Mark's.

Many are asking when he will arrive. He advised that he starts his road trip from Calgary on May 26 and hopes to arrive by June 1. His furniture and goods will arrive later that week. Under the Covid regulations, he will isolate in the Rectory for the mandatory 14 days. Fr. Peter will co-ordinate any liturgical requirements if required.

As Fr. Leighton arrives, we will be losing Brad and Carol Nixon who depart on June 14 for their new home in B.C. There is so much to thank them for not only as parishioners, but in the NOTL community. Carol has served as People's Warden, Finance chair, Lay Delegate and participated in many activities as a volunteer and leader. Brad initiated and chaired our HPPF project to raise \$400,000 for the church renovation work that is just being completed. Brad has provided a great deal of clarity and advice for many matters that have impacted our Parish for many years. He was always involved in fundraising and a Sunday counter. They both will be greatly missed. Please take time to wish them well before they leave.

As mentioned, we had our monthly Parish Council on Tuesday and discussed many important issues facing our parish. A comment was made that we still had some Envelope Boxes that parishioners had not picked up (although many pay by debit/credit and do not require the envelopes). However, the remaining 12 have been mailed to the designated parishioners. Each parishioner has an envelope number, and all contributions are collected under that to provide the donations tax receipt. A survey will be sent out prior to ordering the 2022 boxes of envelopes.

The People's Warden Allan Magnacca and Deputy Warden Andrea Douglas participated in a Diocesan Workshop for Wardens and Treasurers this past week. It was very informative and introduced us to several areas we may not have been aware of that will benefit St. Mark's.

Work on the Rectory and grounds continue. We have now installed the original repaired repainted shutters — the historic colours are stunning.

This week Doug Garrett celebrates his 94<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Pray and wish him well. A great article is in the local paper.

Enjoy the Victoria Day weekend! For golfers and tennis players we know it will be especially enjoyable.

Please, remember to let the office know of anyone who needs any assistance — a phone call, special needs or other issues. We don't want to miss anyone in need.

Take care and please, stay safe!

**Called to Life – Compelled to Love**

Your Wardens

## WORSHIP: Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan

Every week, the Bishop continues to lead Sunday Prayers at 10:00 am on our [Facebook page](#). An order of service is posted on our online [diocesan COVID-19 resource hub](#) on the Friday before. Join a few minutes beforehand and say hello to friends from your church and across the diocese! Afterwards, the service is posted [on our YouTube channel](#) and the Bishop's homily is available on the resource hub.



### READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

[May 23, 2021 – The Feast of Pentecost – LINK](#)

**Acts 2:1-21** - It is now fifty days since the Resurrection. Many pilgrims have come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks. Luke, the author of Acts, tries to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit, but all he can say is what it is like. Divinity, to some extent, is beyond our experience and comprehension.

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** - At the time when this passage was written, Judah had suffered the shame of conquest. Even the Temple lay in ruins; spirits were at an all-time low. Our reading is a fantastic vision, or dream – in an age when dreams were sometimes prophetic – followed by God's interpretation. God will give the people his Spirit, and they will live.

**Romans 8:22-27** - Paul has written that living the Christian life involves suffering, but that this is minuscule compared to the certain hope of future glory. Now we are "in bondage to decay" – to committing sinful acts – and await the "revealing of the children of God". He likens our duress to the pain of child-birth.

**John 15:26-27;16:4b-15** - After the Last Supper, Jesus continues to tell the disciples about the mission they are to undertake. The "Advocate" is the Holy Spirit; he is the "spirit of truth", and will be sent to the disciples, and to the Church, by Christ "from the Father".

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR PENTECOST (submitted by Jane De Münnich)

Pentecost is different. The days leading up to it are so unlike the great seasons of Advent and Lent. The Feast itself has much more of the seemingly chaotic and unpredictable about it. We don't know quite how to prepare for it. To honour that difference, I wish to offer something other than the usual prayers of the people today.

Before I do, please know that there is a list, printed in the Enews to the Pews, of those whom we are praying for this week in our parish, in our diocese, in our extended church family, and in our world. May we be led by the Holy Spirit this week to pray for those on that list, and for others who are not on it, who inspire our gratitude and compassion.

It was actually two years ago today that I set off on the Camino by myself, aware that the great feast of Pentecost was twenty days away. I was on a quest. I was determined to come to terms with what I thought was preventing me from receiving the Holy Spirit in past years. I spent a glorious ten days on the Via Podiensis in France, after which I joined my oldest daughter in Sicily. There, I continued to prepare for Pentecost. I read the daily office in a 200 years old Latin Missal that was the jewel in the crown of a splendid library, none of it in English, housed in our rental property, high on the hill above Taormina. (How unreal all this sounds as we enter our 15th month of travel deprivation!)

My daughter and I went to the Anglican Church of Taormina on Pentecost Sunday. I was primed with Pentecost expectancy as the morning service began, and lo and behold, the wind blew through the open windows at the back of the church on cue, knocking over pamphlets and books in various languages. None of us started speaking in tongues, but our awareness was heightened as we prayed the familiar words of the liturgy. After the service, we spoke to one another, over tea and cake. We were a handful of people from a sprinkling of different countries, with a variety of mother tongues, all moved to pray together that day, and to learn something about each other with the heightened awareness of the traveler. No big, public miracle took place, but looking back, I realize something. I began to understand the language my daughter was speaking, without always having to translate it into my own language. It was a baby step in my spiritual maturity. Has it prepared me to testify to Christ glorified in unexpected circumstances? In a way, it has, but that's another story.

Let us now breathe, and settle into sacred silence, bringing to consciousness our abiding in Christ glorified, welcoming his presence as the eternal 'I AM' to abide in us. And now, let us wait. Perhaps today is the day. Perhaps we are ready for the Spirit to settle on us, not only in our hearts, but in our souls. Perhaps we need just a bit more instruction in God's language of love before we are fluent in joy not fear, patience not anger, charity not hate. God will search us and know what we need to learn, and what and when we are ready to receive him more fully. Amen.

### **St. Mark's Prayer List for the Week of Pentecost**

We give thanks for the presence in this community of Steve Hinchliffe, Jacqueline Hollesen, Peter Howe and Judy McLeod, and Marsha Howe and pray for them and their families.

For Leighton, Rector-designate of the parish, and for his safe and healthy transition to our community.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Alban the Martyr, Glen Williams, The Reverend Aaron Orear, Rector, the Reverend Heino Claessans, Deacon and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa, Rev. Dennis Serfas and Rev. Jerry Borkowsky, Assistants to the Bishop, and the staff of the Saskatchewan Synod, and The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and for peace in the Middle East.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarolo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Lea Parrell, Mimi McEwan, Peter Ford, Steve Atkins-Steele, Jodey Porter, Sean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, Gary Burroughs, and Sam Kingdon.

And for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper.

We pray for those who have gone before us, Kevin Pyne, George Warren Sr., Sheila Pearson, and Yvonne Playle. Amen.

And now in the words our Lord has taught us, let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**