

**Enews to the St. Mark's Pews  
62nd Edition June 4, 2021  
St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792  
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON**

***Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!***

Dear Friends,

There's a wonderful scene in that classic old movie "Sunset Boulevard." Norma Desmond, the faded movie star, is being chauffeured through the Hollywood Hills with Joe Gillis, a young writer who is living with her at her dilapidated estate. She turns to him and says, "That's a dreadful shirt you're wearing."

"What's wrong with it?"

"Nothing - if you work in a filling station. And I'm getting rather bored with that sport jacket and those same baggy pants."

Well - I know the feeling. I foolishly packed a small suitcase and my trousers are getting rather rumpled! I don't even have a clerical collar to wear at worship. So Sunday will be a first for me - and you: the rector presiding in mufti. Don't worry; it will be the first and last time! Hopefully everything will arrive soon. But, rumpled or not, I am delighted to be among you at least. I have enjoyed meeting some of you already through the miracle of Zoom and I hope to meet many more in the coming weeks. Who knows? Maybe we can even have small outdoor gatherings by the end of the summer.

I am writing this note on what is the Feast of Corpus Christi, the great festival of thanksgiving for the miraculous gift of the Eucharist. Of course none of us has been able to receive the sacrament for a long time now. But we have discovered that despite stay at home orders and social distancing and the rest, we can still be the body of Christ. The ways in which we connect and stay involved in the lives of our families and friends and parish are truly miraculous. We have discovered that things like Zoom can be a great gift. We have learned more about one another than we ever would have at coffee hour or in the pew. We have discovered that we are more resilient and creative than we could have imagined. And so today I do give thanks for all of you, the Body of Christ which is St. Mark's and I look forward to walking the path that is set before as more and more we discover what it is to be Christ's hands and feet and eyes and heart in the world.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone who has warmly and enthusiastically welcomed me, including the Wardens, Roxanne MacBeth, the wonderful volunteers who have provided me meals, and of course, my dear friend Peter Wall who kept things going here in splendid style and made my transition as seamless as possible.

You'll note that I have provided an order of service for you to use on Sunday. I hope you'll find this a helpful tool as we continue to worship online.

Please, feel free to contact me:  
[rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com](mailto:rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com)

See you in church!

Every blessing,  
Leighton

## **PARISH UPDATES**

Peter Wall had shared this wonderful photo of his granddaughter. We are happy that now he has more time to spend with his family!



### ***DIOCESAN COVID UPDATE (an excerpt)***

It is expected that the whole province will enter Step 1 of the [Roadmap to Reopen Plan](#) as of June 14, if not a bit before, pending advice from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The Bishop intends to issue new ministry guidelines when that happens and we are still awaiting details of final regulations. Based on what we currently know, we anticipate being able to make several substantive revisions to our current guidelines, including:

- Permitting parish offices to open for clergy, staff, wardens and treasurers, and for parishioners to attend offices by appointment for essential purposes.

- Permitting clergy and/or licensed lay workers to organize outdoor meetings and faith formation activities provided such gatherings maintain physical distance and do not exceed 10 people.
- Permitting community gardens to be operated in compliance with the regulations and advice of local public health officials.
- Increasing the limit for outdoor graveside services to align with Bereavement Authority of Ontario regulations, such that capacity is determined by the ability for 2m of physical distance to be maintained.

As we have throughout the pandemic, our approach will be a cautious one, mindful of our most vulnerable neighbours, and the continuing threat of emerging variants of concern. We do not plan to resume in-person public worship services until at least mid-summer, even if such services may be permitted to some extent by provincial regulations.

### ***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/>

### **WARDEN'S LETTER**

We begin this Enews celebrating the arrival of our new Rector, The Very Reverend Leighton Lee. Leighton arrived on May 29<sup>th</sup> after his drive from Calgary. We are all looking forward to his Ministry at St. Mark's. He did his first Wednesday morning service with 16 of us and a very warm welcome. He expects his furniture to arrive over the weekend, but in the meantime he has been given a hardship stay at the Prince of Wales thanks to the co-operation and assistance from Bob Jackson, the president of Vintage Inns. As always at St. Mark's, a small group organized by Joy Rogers has been providing lunch and dinner for Leighton in the hall while he continued his self-isolation. A Russian writer penned the following: "A stone thrown into a pond sets in motion concentric waves that spread out on the surface of the water, and their

reverberation has an effect on the water lilies and reeds, the paper boat and the buoys of the fishermen at various distances. All these objects are just there for themselves, enjoying their tranquility, when they are wakened to life, as it were, and are compelled to react and to enter into contact with one another. Other invisible vibrations spread into the depths, in all directions, as the stone falls and brushes the algae, scaring the fish and continually causing the new molecular movements. When it touches the bottom, it stirs up the mud and bumps into things that have rested there forgotten, some of which are dislodged, others buried once again in the sand.”

It seems to us that The Venerable Lynne Marchant and Dean Peter Wall together threw the stone that set in motion the concentric waves and now Leighton will continue the impact and create inclusion for all that the stone makes on our parish, parishioners and community of NOTL. We need to thank Bishop Susan for having provided the leadership of Lynne and Peter to set our transition in motion and for recommending Leighton to us.

We will be continuing our recorded service for Sundays as well as the Monday Bible Study and Wednesday virtual service. The Diocese expects we will not likely see an in-person church service until at least mid-summer, although there may be a gathering opportunity outside with limits.

The rollout of vaccine jabs is being extended for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses by age group which is good news. The more completed provides a safer community. We encourage everyone to participate.

Our Rectory and Church yard work is so well done which is very evident through the efforts of Barbara O'Connor who is here several days a week doing her magic.

The flowers on the Altar this week are from David Galloway's garden in his memory by his friends. And Gary Burroughs has been at his desk a few times this week.

Men's group will meet on Tuesday morning June 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Please confirm with Greg Walker if NOT attending. Corporation is meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> and Parish Council will meet on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Stewardship is everyone's responsibility as a parishioner of St. Marks. To those who through this pandemic have maintained and, in some cases, increased their giving's – a large thank you. In some cases where a credit card or debit card is used please check the expiry date on your card. The Diocese does not track this information. If it has expired, please contact Roxanne who will provide the form required to submit the new information. For anyone who is unable to maintain their usual giving and would like to discuss this, please contact either of the Wardens.

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.



June is Pride Month and our diocese has a special [virtual celebration of Pride, Fiercely Loved: You Belong!](#) The service, featuring Bishop Susan Bell, a homily by Canon Penny Anderson, and a host of diverse voices from around our diocese, will premiere on Facebook and YouTube on Sunday, June 13 at 4:00pm.

### READINGS FOR SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[June 6, 2021 – Second Sunday After Pentecost – LINK](#)

**1 Samuel 8:4-11,(12-15),16-20,(11:14-15)** - Samuel has ruled Israel, under God, for many years. Now an old man, he has handed power on to his sons, but they are corrupt and pervert justice.

**2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1** - Paul has written that he proclaims Christ rather than himself, despite what some opponents claim. He realizes that in his human weakness, he needs the salvation made available through the death of Jesus, so that he can be alive in Christ.

**Mark 3:20-35** - Early in his ministry, Jesus is in Galilee. He has restored many to health, and many more seek to be cured, some possessed by evil spirits. He is now "at home", with his blood relatives and his disciples.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (Submitted by Jamie Mainprize)

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

Let us pray that we may truly empty ourselves of selfishness that we may be retrieved by Christ into our true humanity and love for our neighbour. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, let us pray that you give us the desire and courage to seek justice and peace among all nations, remembering especially this day our country of Canada and its original peoples and those who followed.

Let us pray for Elizabeth, our Queen, and for her ministers in Canada that they will guide us with courage, integrity and foresight through the perils of disease and disruption and conflict among us and that we may respond responsibly and selflessly.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all those who work to bring health and care, supplies and instruction to all of us, often at great risk and sacrifice to their own health and well-being, remembering especially the workers in India. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for Susan, our Bishop, and for Leighton, our Rector, that he may have a safe and healthy transition to our community. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the Very Reverend Peter Wall and the devotion and healing which he has given to our parish over the past year. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese let us pray for the parish of St. George, Lowville, the Reverend Dr. Nigel Bunce, Priest-in-Charge and the people of that parish. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer let us pray for the theological colleges and training programs within the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario: Canterbury College, Huron College, Renison College, the Anglican Studies Program at Saint Paul University, Thorneloe University, Trinity College, Wycliffe College, and Luther College at the University of Regina and Luther College – High School. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the presence in this community of Janet James, Gavin and Joyce James, Chris and Jeanne Jennings, and Jackie Johnson and pray for them and their families. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the sick, especially remembering Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarlo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Mimi McEwan, Peter Ford, Jodey Porter, Sean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, Gary Burroughs, and Sam Kingdon. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those shut in their houses, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died, Sheila Pearson and Yvonne Playle. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us now pray the words that Jesus taught us,

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.

**Please, make a note of this useful event - the Palliative Care workshop. Here is the link:**

**<https://notpubliclibrary.libnet.info/event/5190692>**