

Enews to the St. Mark's Pews
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St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON
Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!

Three times a week, the English newspaper The Guardian publishes a special section entitled "The Long Read." Each story in the section is three pages in length which they reckon takes about 15 minutes to read. This represents a deliberate attempt on the part of the newspaper to counter the growing journalistic phenomenon of great breadth of coverage but very little depth.

This lack of depth is emblematic of contemporary life, which has become shallower with each generation. We live fast-paced, exciting and comfortable lives, but they are not, by and large, lives in which we give ourselves time for reflection nor the opportunity to go deep, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. I think it was Robert Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, who said that life is like a swimming pool: most of the noise and action comes from the shallow end.

"Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord," we hear in this coming Sunday's psalm. Yet most of us call to God out of the shallows of life, experience, and expectation, and most of us don't hear God's voice answering—can't hear him—because we're busily and noisily splashing around in the shallow end.

But I have begun to discover that many of us are starved for things that have substance and can sustain us along life's journey, and we are desperately searching for the people, the tools, and the places that can help us as we make our way. Socrates was right: the unexamined life isn't worth living—to which I will add my own codicil: the unexamined faith isn't worth believing. More than that, the unexamined life of faith isn't worth living—not really. An unexamined life of faith leads to stagnation, corrosion, and paralysis and tends to make us insensitive and rigid.

In his autobiography, *Leaving Alexandria*, which he calls "a memoir of faith and doubt," Richard Holloway, former Bishop of Edinburgh, writes movingly and passionately about how his own deep searching, his questioning of the received wisdom of the Christian tradition, and his need to examine his own faith and acknowledge his doubts got him into hot water with his bishop-colleagues. The 1998 Lambeth Conference, in which he encountered what he perceived to be a defensive shallowness concerning issues of human sexuality, was, he writes, "... the most traumatic experience of my life." And he quotes a poem by the important Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai:

From the place where we are right
flowers will never grow
in the Spring.
The place where we are right
is hard and trampled
like a yard.

But doubts and loves

dig up the world
like a mole, a plough.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
where the ruined
house once stood.

Shallow answers to life's most profound questions, which are borne out of a desire to be right and a refusal to accept that doubt is the handmaid of faith, makes the place where we stand a stony, hostile place where nothing can grow and flourish, and those shallow answers make our own lives hard and unforgiving. The antidote—going deep, facing doubt and refusing to be satisfied with pat answers—will, no doubt, be painful. But it will also be liberating. The house of what we call “faith” may be destroyed—but not its foundation, which is the unbounded, surprising, and deep love of Christ.

We would love to welcome new members to Bible Study. It is held at 9:30 am on Monday via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please email me directly at rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com

I am also inviting you to come to the Parish Hall this week on Tuesday only (the office is closed on Thursday for Canada Day) between 2 pm and 4 pm so I can meet you and you can meet me.

Here's the plan: I will sit in the doorway of the parish hall (outside) and couples, families, pods can drop by for a brief (15-minute) socially-distanced outdoor meet-and-greet.

We do need to make sure these visits are scheduled and coordinated, so if you would like to drop by, please email Roxanne in the parish office and she will give you a 15 minute slot on your preferred day. The parish email is stmarks@cogeco.net

Every blessing for the week ahead.
Leighton

PARISH UPDATES

Migrant Farm Workers Ministry has two on going needs:

- due to the pandemic more people are outside on their bikes, which is wonderful, but it has led to shortages for the Bike Ministry. We need repair parts, if anyone has an old bike that we could use for parts to repair newer bikes your donations would be greatly appreciated. And we will always accept used bikes we can refurbish for the Migrant Workers in our area, it is the most reliable transportation they have. Bikes can be dropped off at St. John's in Jordan, or at St. Alban's in Beamsville. If you need someone to pick up the bikes please phone either church and we will arrange for them to be picked up or email Fr. Antonio. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about the Bike ministry please contact Fr. Antonio Illas at migrantfarmworkers@niagaraanglican.ca
- the Grocery Bag Ministry for the Migrant Workers is in need of a few 'younger' volunteers who can help with the 'unloading' of cars, every Friday night for an hour, between 4-5 at St. John's in Jordan. If students are in need of volunteer hours we can fill out the paper work. Please contact Fr. Antonio to coordinate. migrantfarmworkers@niagaraanglican.ca

Keeping in Touch On-line

*Our Sunday morning services are **streamed** on Facebook at 8:00 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page. The service will be uploaded to YouTube also by 8:00 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-vVgNf0GbuxrfIjW4sOXzQ>

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

WARDEN'S LETTER

We seem to be sharing a combination of good news and sad news. We are sad to have the death of Sam Kingdon, a parishioner who helped in so many ways, choir, volunteer, project manager and all around a great fellow. We mourn with his wife Pat and their three sons and families. If you haven't read his obituary, please do to see all he accomplished. It is available on Morgan's Funeral Home website.

The good news Fr. Leighton had his service of Institution on Wednesday in a brief Diocesan Zoom event. He is now officially a Rector in the Diocese at St. Mark's. It is likely we will have his Induction Service sometime in September when we can welcome and celebrate his coming to St. Mark's.

Please, read an article about Fr. Leighton in this week's "Local".

We eagerly watch for news from the Bishop as to a re-opening date for in-person worship. The date is unknown, but on Thursday the Diocese released re-opening guidance to allow parishes to start preparing for the much anticipated day when we can return to church. As the province moves forward with the three stages, it is promising however with much caution. We hope most of you have had at least one jab and are booked for a second one.

The repair of the Cemetery stones carries on and if you haven't seen some of the work, please drop by.

Enjoy your week-end, 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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Sunday, June 27, 2021- Fifth Sunday After Pentecost -LINK](#)

2 Samuel 1:1,17-27 The previous chapter (in 1 Samuel) tells of a battle against the Philistines on Mount Gilboa (near the Sea of Galilee). This time, the Philistines defeat the Israelites, led by Saul. Jonathan, Saul's son and heir, is killed; Saul is so badly wounded that he either takes his own life, or asks a foreigner alien to kill him.

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 The mother church, Jerusalem, is again in financial need. The churches of Macedonia have been most generous in contributing to the Jerusalem Fund, but the collection of funds at Corinth has been interrupted, perhaps by the quarrels and divisions in the Church.

Mark 5:21-43 After stilling the storm at sea and curing a demoniac on the eastern shore of the Lake of Galilee, Jesus returns to Jewish territory on the western shore. Mark presents two stories of healing: the story of the healing of Jairus' daughter is interrupted by the woman's gesture of trust – through which she is healed. The scene then returns to the raising of the girl.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (submitted by Donna Belleville)

Let us be still for a moment as we draw near in worship. Take just a few seconds to remind yourself of why we are gathered here today -LISTEN- God speaks even through the background noise of the world that surrounds us.

Here we are Lord: your People, your Church meeting together in Your presence. We welcome each other and we welcome You. Make yourself known to us in new ways, through our worship, our prayers and the understanding of your word.

GOD OF LOVE, it is your desire that all people come to know you. Lead us into a deeper relationship with you. Bless your church throughout the world, those who worship and those who lead us. May we at St Mark's radiate your love to all whom we encounter on our journey. We give thanks for the presence in our community of Pat Lamb, Beverley Lees, Dorothy Lees, and David Levesque and Jason St. Hilaire and pray for them and their families. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER.

GOD OF CREATION, open our eyes to the beauty that surrounds us. Inspire us to be good caretakers, that we may pass it on enriched and replenished to all who come after us. LORD IN YOUR MERCY...

GOD OF JUSTICE, free us to be our better selves. Inspire us to serve one another. Liberate us from fear, bigotry and selfishness, and set our hearts and minds on love, equality and justice. We pray that leaders throughout the world will work together to drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice, restore our passion for what is good and right, reject self interest and act with charity and clarity for the benefit of the people they serve. LORD IN YOUR MERCY...

GOD OF PEACE, help us to find peace in our inner selves, in our homes, in our societies, in our communities. Relieve the suffering of all those afflicted by violence and oppression. Inspire us to be your agents in restoring harmony to our troubled world. LORD IN YOUR MERCY...

GOD OF ALL, as the cases of coronavirus continue to devastate parts of the world, we pray for all who are sick, suffering, in need. We pray that government agencies will have the wisdom and skill to work together to contain this global epidemic and that doctors and nurses will be energized and sustained in their life saving work. LORD IN YOUR MERCY...

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Paul, Norval, the Reverend Adrius Sarka, Interim Priest-in-Charge and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. David Parsons, Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Joey Royal, Annie Ittoshat, and Lucy Netser, Suffragan Bishops, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of the Arctic, and the congregations of the northern area of the Saskatchewan Synod.

In the family of St. Mark's we pray for the sick and those who care for them: Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarlo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Peter Ford, Jodey Porter, Dean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, and Joshua. For those shut in their home: Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby and Joan Draper.

For those who have died: Yvonne Playle, Mimi McEwan and Sam Kingdon. We pray for the peace of their souls and comfort for all who mourn them.

We pray for ourselves, for our families, for those we love. We give you thanks for all the blessings of our lives and pray that you will guide us in their use and their care to the best of our ability and the glory of your name.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY.../AMEN

ALMIGHTY GOD, you have taught us through your Son that love fulfills the law. May we love you with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and may we love our neighbour as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

Hear now 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.