



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 108th Edition - April 22, 2022

From the Rector



Dear Friends:

Once upon a time, on the first Sunday after Easter, a tiny, but very deformed baby was left on the steps of Notre Dame Cathedral. The Archdeacon discovered him, and he named the poor little thing after the opening words of the Introit for the day: Quasimodo. Of course Quasimodo is more commonly known as the Hunchback of Notre Dame, the isolated and unloved figure who lived among the bells of the church. He lived a fearful, isolated existence in a very confined and closed in space, and he left the

Cathedral only on two occasions.

Last Sunday we heard about the closed tomb where the stone was rolled away. This coming Sunday we'll hear about the closed doors of the upper room where the disciples had locked themselves away for fear of the authorities. All of which is to say, opening up that which is closed is an essential component in the Easter story. Because you and I aren't meant to live a closed-up existence, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.

I'm even bold enough to suggest that our faith can be a closed door—even a locked door which is steadfastly shut to the possibilities of new life offered in Christ's resurrection. All our lives we have been taught to believe only what we can see, what we can prove, what we can quantify, what we can touch. But we can do none of these things concerning the risen Lord. Of course we can read about him—yet we are also taught not to believe everything we read. And considering that our best Biblical scholars now believe that none of the accounts of the resurrection—neither Paul's nor the evangelists—were written by eyewitnesses, we might be tempted to ask whether they are even reliable, whether we can even believe these accounts.

But we need to remember that the Biblical record of the resurrection is not evidence. It is not a transcript of events as they happened. It is more like a rhapsody or a vision, which shows us the power that the risen Christ had to transform lives and situations. All the stories told about Christ after his resurrection show the disciples taken unawares by their risen friend who arrests them in their fear and sadness. Whatever happened, however these earliest Christians experienced the risen Christ in their lives, a group of ordinary men and

women found within themselves the power to rise above their circumstances, their limitations and their fears, and to speak a new word of power to the world: the power of love. So I repeat: evidence for the resurrection isn't found in the pages of scripture. It is found in the history of the Christian church and its people whose faith has enabled them to do great things. Even so, our faith remains just that: faith. We are never hammered into believing, and we are free to ignore the beckoning of Christ. Always there is freedom for us to choose and to respond.

Something about the resurrection accounts is sometimes overlooked: the risen Jesus showed himself only to those who loved him, who knew they were living lives of futility and decay rather than lives of purpose and renewal. He did not appear in Pilate's hall; he did not appear in the High Priest's court; he did not appear in the public marketplace. He showed himself only to those who loved him. Do we love him? Are we willing to follow him at some risk? Can we recognize our need to be raised from our present circumstances into a better and a fuller way of being? Our love for Christ is measured by our willingness both to allow ourselves to be re-fashioned, re-built and re-born in his image and to then proclaim and live out, actually embody, his love in the world. That is our Easter faith, our Easter task, our Easter joy.

On a more practical note, remember that we are back to two services on Sunday: 8:30 am and 10:30 am. (Yes, Easter Day was at 8, but that was to accommodate the preparations for 10:30 am.) This is yet another sign of our continuing return to familiar patterns. The 8:30 service will use the the "traditional" language of the BCP—though following the form found in the BAS.

Grace and peace,
Leighton

From the Wardens

What a lovely, engaging and comforting Easter Week and especially Easter Sunday (as former Rector Ian Dingwall would say it is "Easter Day"). The flower arrangements were as perfect as one would expect. Thanks to all those who donated to the flowers fund, to Virginia Mainprize and her team who placed them all and to Marsha Howe for her special contribution. The remembrance gifts were one of the largest we have had for many years.

We had more than 100 in attendance for the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services on Easter Sunday. The beautiful music and choir were under the direction of our choir master and organist James Bourne. Our Rector, Father Leighton, once again delivered a sermon that touched us all.

It is very evident we need more greeters and counters to join our teams. Please join us! Click the Greeters 2022 Schedule "Button" at bottom of this message to view the Greeter's Team Captain and dates calendar. Note the vacancies. A special thank you to John MacBeth and Harriet Tunmer for assisting Easter week including Easter Sunday.

Parish Council will meet on May 4 and information will be sent out April 29. To Parish Council and others if you have an agenda item to be considered, the office needs the information before the 28th April.

This week we received excellent news that St. Mark's has been approved for a Canada Summer Jobs grant to hire two students! This grant will support St. Mark's in various ways including welcoming visitors to our historic church and cemetery, leading tours and helping prepare for the Cherry Festival. Our thanks to the federal government and Niagara Falls MP Tony Baldinelli for this funding.

During Holy Week, we hosted 56 students, parents, and teachers from Royal Oak School in Addison Hall to colour Easter Eggs for a fundraiser. You may have seen the article in The LOCAL paper.

On Sunday there will be two services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We hope to see

everyone at either service.

We close with:

May the sun
Bring you energy by the day
May the moon
Softly restore you by night
May the rain
Wash away your worries
May the breeze
Blow new strength into your being
May you walk gently through the world and know It's beauty all the days of your life.
-
"Apache blessing-"

See you in church!

As always, a reminder to advise the office of anyone who needs assistance, including a phone call, food delivery or some phone companionship. Or over the fence.

Stay safe – keep well

Called to Life – Compelled to Love

Your Wardens

Greeters 2022 Schedule - Can you assist?

Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Please remember that wearing a mask at all times continues to be mandatory.

On Duty this Week

Greeter(s) - Ann Lindsay, Gill Bryan

Reader & Intercessor - Jamie Mainprize

Altar Guild - Eve Wylie, Gene Ann Smith, Jennifer Smith

Live-Stream Sunday Services

Sunday Services are Live-Streamed and currently available on [Facebook](#)

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Web Site Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 pm. Enjoy!



Church Envelopes

Church envelopes that still need to be picked up are now available in the Church.

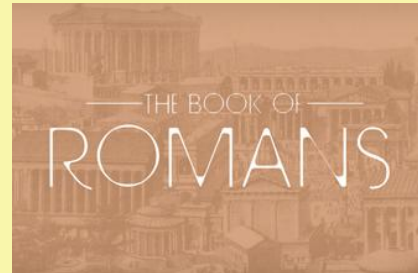
Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [View our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our Calendar: [Visit our Calendar](#)

Bible Study via Zoom

Bible Study resumes on April 25 at 9:30 am. We will begin our study of the Book of Romans. The relevant chapters for this week are 1, 2, and 3. The Zoom link will be sent out on Sunday.



Morning Prayer Services - Wednesday Mornings - 9:30 a.m.

You can join the weekly Morning Prayer Zoom service through the Zoom invite sent from Father Leighton.

Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for David Levesque and Jason St Hilaire, Charlotte Lewis, Ann Lindsay, and Richard and Lynne Liptrap and their families.

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

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Paul's, Shelburne; the Reverend William Willis, Priest-in-Charge, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Huron, and the congregations of the Western Manitoba area of Manitoba of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Jacquie White, Jean Baker, Jack Taylor, Margaret Stimson, Gillian MacKay, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Joshua, and Ben Buholtz.



Queen's Jubilee Concert

We are pleased to announce the Queen's Jubilee Concert with The Newark Singers and Orchestra, and Michael Tansley, Conductor, will take place in St. Mark's Church on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. More information will follow next week! Stay tuned...

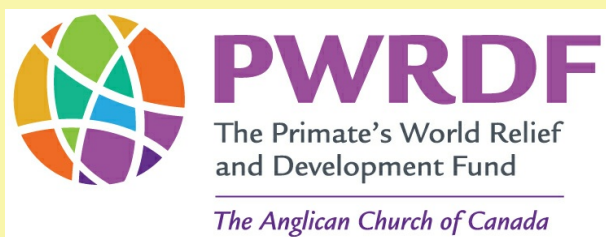
Cherry Festival 2022

Saturday, July 9 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cherry Festival plans are moving ahead with many former group leads agreeing to carry on with their tasks. Donations of treasures and good quality clothing including hats, scarves, gloves and purses will be accepted in June as storage space is limited. Jewelry donations are welcome now. **Book donations are welcome and starting June 20 books can be dropped off at Addison Hall.** Please contact the office if items must be dropped off before June.



Cherry Festival 2022 Jewelry Donations: The Jewelry Team is asking for you to drop off your jewelry donations to St. Mark's Church Office. They can be left in the office for the Jewelry Team to pick up. Kindly note, we are asking for jewelry that is in good condition, and, that has been cleaned, prior to donation. We also ask you donate the jewelry on or before June 15th deadline, as our team will need enough time to sort, price and organize the pieces. We are always looking for extra help on the Jewelry Team if you would like to volunteer. Please contact Donna Bell (Jewelry Team Co-Leader) at (905) 357-0159 if you have any questions; OR Anjulika Chand (Jewelry Team Co-Leader) at (905) 347-1711. Thanks to everyone as we look forward to a wonderful Cherry Festival this year.



PWRDF is [supporting Ukrainians forced to flee their homes](#) due to the Russian invasion. The initial grant of \$20,000 issued to an ACT Alliance appeal has been increased to \$50,000. The grants will fund the work of Action by Churches Together (ACT) member Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA).

As the war began on February 24, tens of thousands of Ukrainians fled for safety elsewhere in Ukraine or to neighbouring countries. Yelena was one of hundreds of Ukrainians in line at a border crossing into Hungary, waiting with her three children while her husband is on the frontlines. She told ACT, "We heard that the Polish border is completely jammed, so we decided to cross the mountains and try to make it into Hungary. My sister is still on the way, I have no idea where she or my nieces are."

On February 27, HIA set up a 24-hour refugee support point on the Hungarian side of the border at Beregsurány, where the line of refugees trying to cross into Hungary is kilometres long, says an ACT communiqué. HIA is providing hot tea, sandwiches, refreshments, blankets and basic hygiene items for Ukrainians, including many elderly and children who are waiting long hours to cross the border into Hungary.

"We've been standing here at this border checkpoint for more than five hours," says Yelena. "It is cold and my children are freezing. It is amazing to see that people are here to help, and even just talking to you gives us hope for a better future."

This is a rapidly evolving situation, please monitor PWRDF's website and social media to stay up to date on new developments.

How you can help

To make a donation to this response online, [click here](#)

You may also donate by phone at 416-822-9083 or leave a voicemail toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and PWRDF will return your call, or mail your cheque to PWRDF, 80 Hayden, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2. Please mark Ukraine in the memo field.

**Frozen Cherry Pies and
Canned Goods**



The following items are available now to purchase from the Church Office. Pass it on!

- Frozen Cherry Pies - \$20 each
- Frozen Pea Soup - 1 Litre - \$15
- Cherry Juice - 1 Litre - \$15
- Cherry Juice - 1/2 Litre - \$8
- Picked Beets - Medium - \$8
- Cherry Jam - Small - \$5
- Cranberry Sauce - Medium - \$8
- Cranberry Sauce - Small - \$5

[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



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