



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 Centre Street

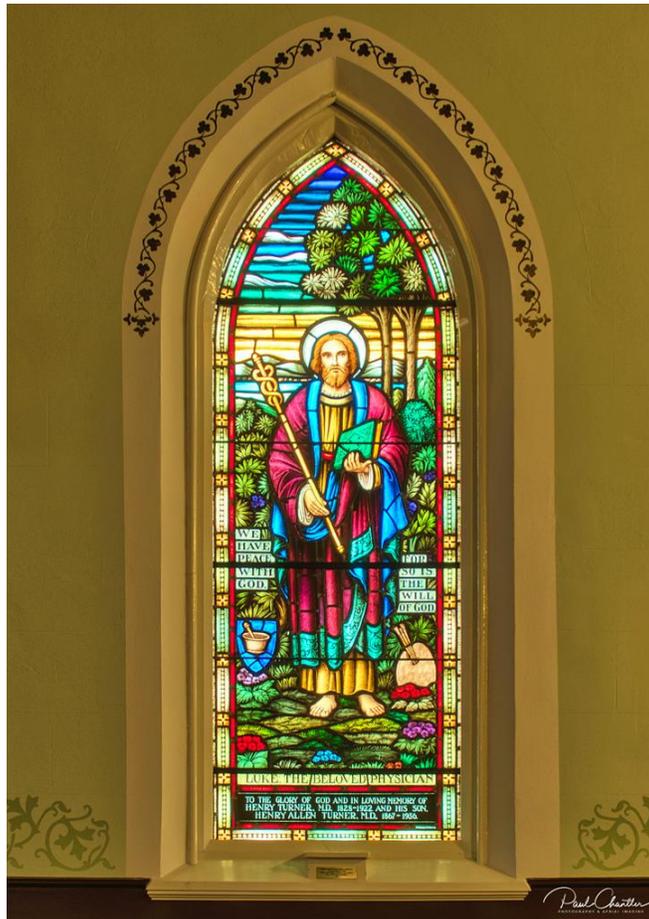
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St Luke--Evangelist & Physician

Service this Sunday, April 10th, at 10.30 am

Passion (Palm) Sunday

**Liturgy of the Palms, Reading of the Passion
according to Luke, & Holy Eucharist**

Holy Week Services at St Thomas' Church Millbrook

April 10th, Palm (Passion) Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10.30 am

April 14th, Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist at 12.15 noon

April 15th, Good Friday, Solemn Liturgy at 10.30 am

April 17th, Easter Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10.30 am

Note: The Diocese of Toronto requires the use of masks at all church services and church events until April 27th. After that date the use of masks will be optional.

Easter flowers - Donations to assist in the purchase of Easter Lilies for the church may be given to the parish secretary or put on the collection plate at the back of the church. Cheques should clearly indicate in the memo line "Easter flowers." *If the donation is given in memory of family members or friends, please attach the full names of those deceased persons being remembered.* The names will be included in the announcements on Easter morning.

A Palm Sunday 'soup & sandwich' luncheon will take place, following the church service this Sunday, April 10th.

The luncheon will, according to diocesan requirements, be prepared and served "restaurant style" (i.e., served to people seated at table--no lining up at a buffet allowed). Masks may be removed once people are seated. After lunch, there will be a *short* guided conversation on parishioners' views of what kinds of outreach and fundraising activities we might be willing and able to resume (or initiate) after two years of Covid-19 restrictions. Please start to give this some thought. Mark your calendars for the luncheon. Journeys Outreach has kindly offered to organize, prepare, and serve the lunch.

Sandwich Making Outreach - Recently members of Journeys Outreach Group began to help with a community project that supplies sandwiches to the homeless shelters in Peterborough. It is called 'Sandwich Sisters. Twice a week there are various groups in the area that make sandwiches and drop them off at a central point from where they are picked up and delivered to where they are needed. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Journeys group opted to make them at home. Every other Thursday morning, four of us make and deliver two loaves of sandwiches each to a Millbrook location and place them in coolers that are put out for that purpose at 9 am. A lovely lady named Jane picks up the coolers in the afternoon and delivers to One Roof Peterborough. We are hoping to be able to make them at the church on Thursday mornings, so supplies can be provided. However, until then folks can bring their receipts to Journeys for re-imburement for supplies if they wish. **Donations** of cookies, boxed juices, fresh veggie sticks are gratefully accepted as well as pet supplies. There are rules surrounding safe food handling and packaging that must be observed. If you are interested in participating in this outreach project please contact: llandry@nexicom.net

A Note from the Priest-in-Charge: A Ministry of Greeters? “For the past two years or so, owing to Covid-19 protocols, we have not been allowed to ‘take up the collection’ in church. Weekly envelope holders have placed their envelopes on the large collection plate on the table near the entrance to the church. After May 1st, we will again be allowed to ‘take up the collection’ although I ask myself if we really want to return to this practice every Sunday. Here is why: Since more than 50% of our total regular Sunday offerings are now made through PAR, e-transfer, mail, or other means, the symbolism of an ‘offering’ collected from everyone in the congregation--and then presented to God at the altar--has lost much of its meaning. For this reason, I personally do not miss the taking up of the collection at church. What I miss *very* much, however, is having sidespeople present near the door to greet those coming to church (especially visitors or newcomers) and also keeping an eye out (near the stair-lift or elsewhere) for those who might need a helping hand. I would also be very happy for someone to take on the ministry of bell-ringer (done previously by Joe Lunn). I am suggesting that we consider re-thinking our sidespeople as ‘greeters’ (we could still call them sidespeople if we wanted) and that we continue to use the large plate near the entrance of the church for envelopes and visitors donations. I would also like to get more people involved in this ministry of welcoming and care for others. Please give this some thought and let me know what you think--we might briefly discuss it after our Palm Sunday luncheon.” RR

The Mammoth Sale will take place on **Saturday, May 28th** in the parish hall and, weather permitting, outdoors. Gently used items for the rummage sale may be left in the front vestibule (now used as a storage area) of the parish hall. More details will be forthcoming. Please contact Clarke Mayhew or the parish office for more information.

The Bishop has announced that almost all Covid-19 restrictions in the diocese, including those for the liturgy and parish activities, will be lifted on April 27th.

*Here is a portion of the announcement: “With faith and trust, and in deep thanksgiving, we announce today that **the Diocese of Toronto will move to [Green Stage](#) – the removal of all COVID-19 restrictions, except the vaccine policy for staff and volunteers – as of April 27.** On that date, across the Diocese, the wearing of masks becomes optional, all parishes may resume the informal sharing of food and drinks (e.g., coffee hours) and may once again offer the Common Cup in the Eucharist.”*

“Tending the Soul”

***...a series of honest and hopeful conversations for the Church and its leaders about ministry in this time sponsored by our diocese. What’s changed and what are we learning? Where are we finding abundance in the face of disruption?
What do we imagine for the future?***

Each hour-long session will include a conversation between church leaders, both lay and ordained, on a particular topic, with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Together we’ll share what’s tough in ministry these days, what we’ve discovered about best practices, and how we see the future unfolding.

There will be nine conversations on Thursdays at noon:

March 10: Where are we now? Highlights of what we’ve learned, two years later

March 17: Visioning and planning in transition

March 24: Talking about money

March 31: Reconnecting with our congregations: the art of pastoral visiting & dealing with pandemic grief

April 28: Speaking to the spirit: the church as a safe place for questions about meaning & purpose

May 5: Ministry with children, youth & families

May 12: Digital communications, websites & social media

May 19: Stories of Generosity: the transformative impact of giving

May 26: Adult education in an age of Zoom burn-out

***You can choose to attend any or all of the sessions.
They will be live streamed to the Diocese of Toronto Facebook page.***

The Diocesan ACW will hold its ***annual general meeting*** via Zoom on April 30th from 10 am to noon. This year’s theme is “Renewed for Change.” A registration link will be made available on April 1st. For more information please email: acw@toronto.anglican.ca.

Resources for the on-going work of Truth & Reconciliation - from the the Anglican Church of Canada - for prayer, study, and action : <https://www.anglican.ca/orangeshirtday/>

Resources for understanding issues of Diversity and Race - from our diocese: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/diversity-resources/?lang=en>

New office hours: The parish secretary is now in the office on ***Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon***. Please feel free to call (705-932-2233) during these times. For **any** imporant matter, please feel free to call the Priest-in-Charge at home at 705-932-1231.

The Churchwardens continue to be extremely thankful for the generosity and faithfulness of parishioners and friends of our parish who are making a concerted effort to keep up their regular offerings.

In addition to making a weekly offering at church on Sundays, donations (for those who are not already on PAR) can be made in the following ways:

- ***By regular mail*** - to St Thomas' Anglican Church, P. O. Box 187, Millbrook, Ontario, L0A 1G0. *(Please be sure to use the post office box number - not just the street address - when sending items by mail).* Cheques only please--made out to St Thomas' Church. *Post-dated cheques, for future contribution periods, would be welcome and very much appreciated.*
- ***By e-transfer from your bank account.*** Please call Gail at the parish office at (leave message) or email her at cavmanparish@nexicom.net to arrange.
- ***By pre-arranged 'drop off' at the parish office.*** **Note:** Please call in advance to let us know you plan to do this. Please *never* leave cash in the mailbox!
- ***By Pre-Authorized Remittance:*** If you wish to enroll in PAR, please call the parish office during office hours. An authorization form will be mailed (or emailed) to you.
- ***By using the secure online donations link on our parish website.*** Here is the link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119202950RR0001-st-thomas-church/>