



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

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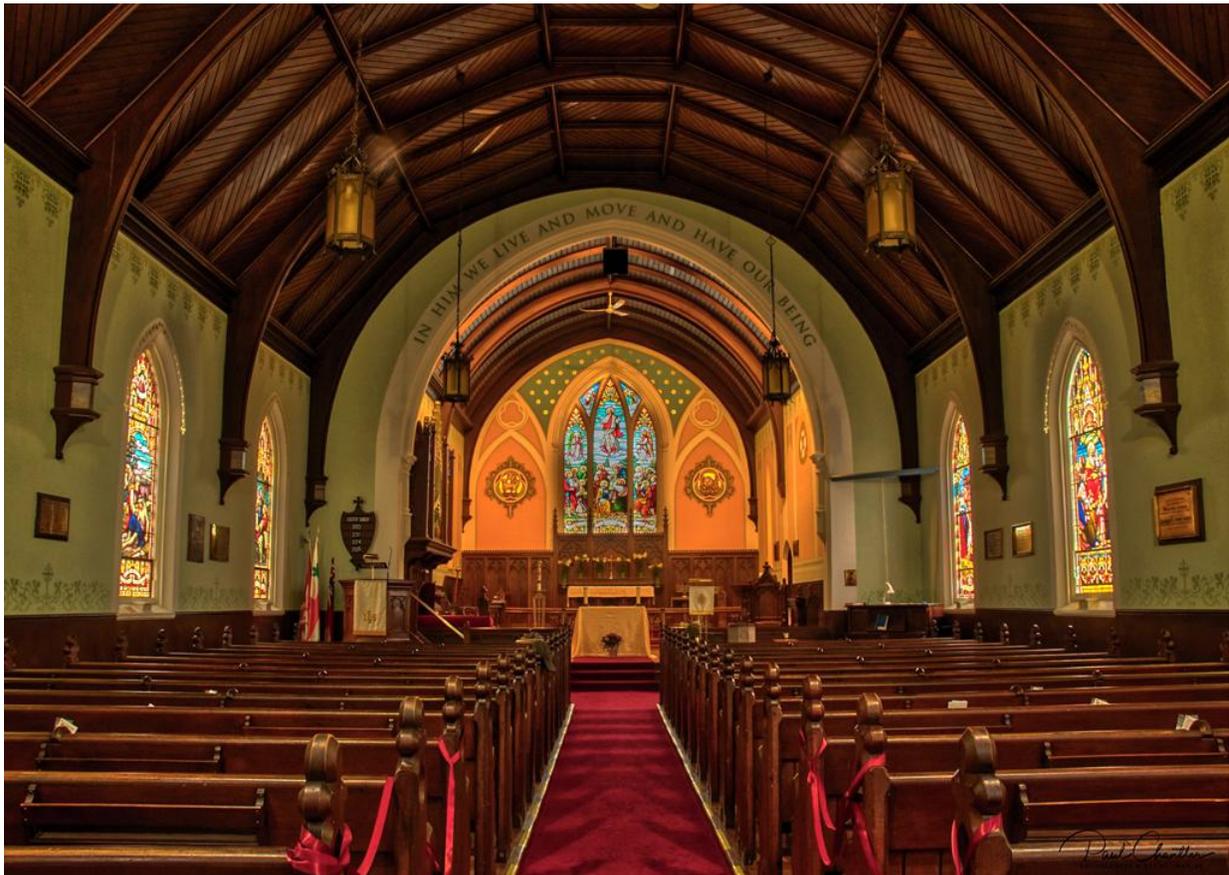


Photo credit: Paul Chantler

*Happy Holy Week & Easter from
St Thomas' Church!*

Holy Week & Easter Services at St Thomas' Church

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 continues to require the use of face masks at all church services and indoor church events

The eNews will not be published next week. Next edition: Thursday, April 28th.

Easter flowers - Donations to assist with the cost of Easter lilies for the church may still be made. Cheques should clearly indicate in the memo line "Easter flowers." ***If the donation is given in memory of deceased family members or friends, please give the full names to the Priest-in-Charge on or before Easter morning so they may be included in the announcements.***

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 Lianne Landry: llandry@nexicom.net

Many thanks to Journeys Outreach and their friends for organizing, preparing, and serving the ***Palm Sunday luncheon***. After such a long time without any in-person events, it was wonderful to sit down together for a delicious soup & sandwich lunch and good conversation!

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 sides-people 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 sides-people as ‘greeters’ (we could still call them sides-people 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.” -- 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.

Christ Church Omeme is closing. There will be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Christ Church on *Sunday, April 24th, at 4 pm*, with Bishop Riscylla Shaw presiding, to mark the closing of the church and to give thanks to God for the many years of faithful service offered by the people of that congregation.

The Bishop’s office had previously announced that most Covid-19 restrictions required by the diocese, including the mandatory use of masks , would be lifted on April 27th .

However, it was reported today that the present “sixth wave” of Covid-19 infections *may* cause a delay in the lifting of some diocesan restrictions.

The diocese is monitoring the present situation closely and will announce any delay to the start date of the ‘Green Stage’ next week.

Any further information will be provided as soon as we receive it.

“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 parish 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/>