



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 Centre Street

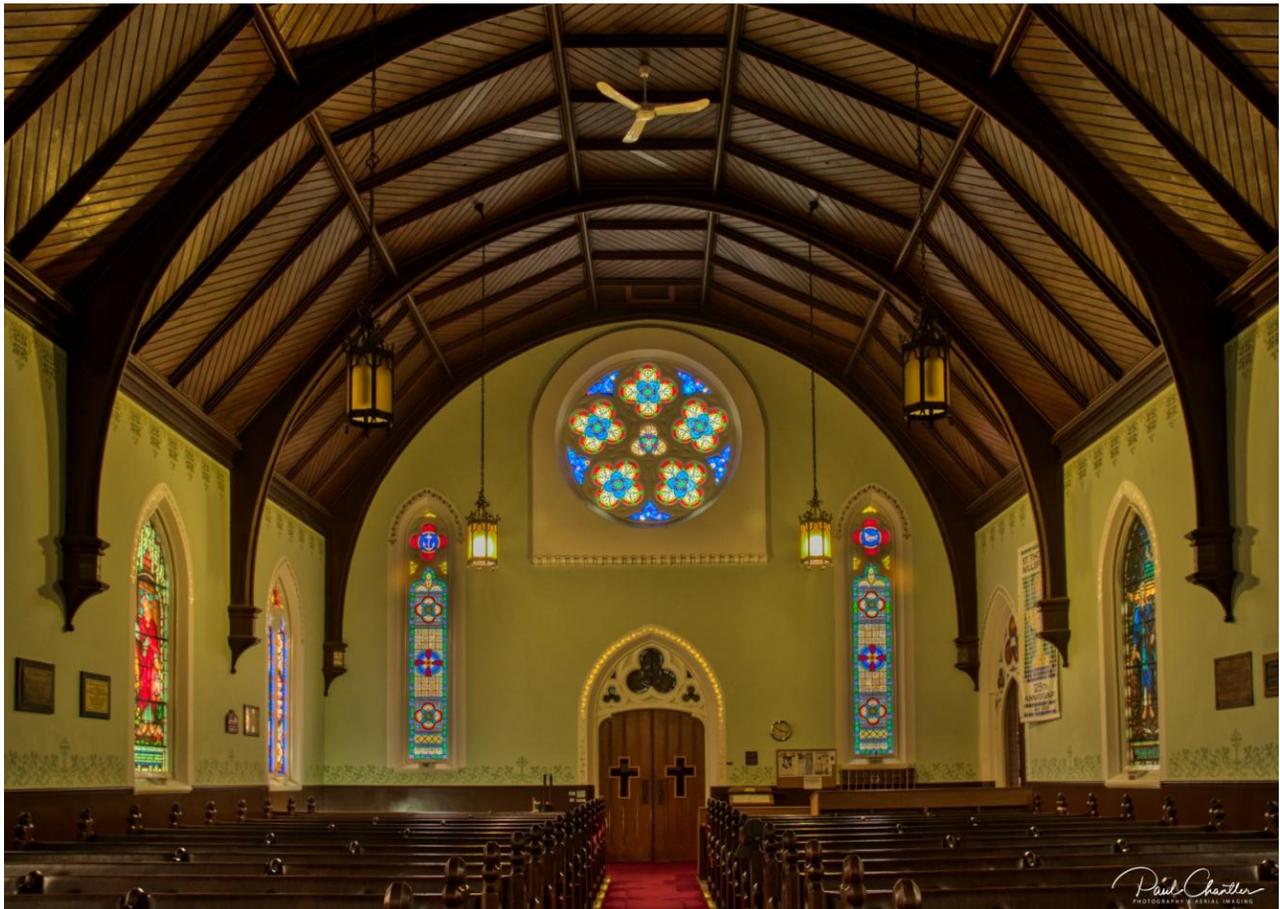
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Service this Sunday, June 12th, at 10.30 am
Feast of the Holy Trinity
Holy Eucharist

A note from the Priest-in-Charge: “The Diocese of Toronto has now officially lifted almost all Covid-19 restrictions. As we all know, the Covid-19 virus is still very much with us; we simply have to learn how to live with it, much as we have learned to lived with other communicable diseases, and take whatever reasonable steps we can to protect ourselves and others. How do we continue to do this both as individuals and as a church community?

- Vaccination is the most powerful tool we have for fighting Covid-19. We are incredibly fortunate in this country to have access to safe and effective vaccines. Diocesan policy still requires all parish employees and volunteers to be fully vaccinated. In addition, if you are eligible for a booster, or second booster, consider the medical evidence, not the myths so freely available on the internet! I have had two boosters and have lived to tell the tale! The greatest threat to our collective health is ignorance and fear.
- If you know or even suspect that you are infected, or if you feel ill for any reason, please do not come to church. Stay home and immediately get advice from your health-care provider or from Peterborough Public Health.
- Masks are now *optional* inside our church buildings. However, masks are still *recommended* by Peterborough Public Health in certain circumstances and for certain people. If you wish to continue to wear a mask at church or elsewhere (to reduce risk of transmission to yourself and to others), I encourage you to do so. N95 or KN95 masks are considered the most effective, but any well-fitting mask does apparently give increased protection. We will continue to have a supply of medical-grade masks near the entrance of the church for those who want to use them during part or all of the service.
- Good interior ventilation is, apparently, very important for mitigating Covid-19 spread. During good weather, we can achieve reasonably good ventilation in both St Thomas’ and Trinity the Marsh by opening doors and creating a cross-draft. We are looking into ways to possibly improve ventilation in St Thomas’ in the winter months. Incidentally, the best ventilation at St Thomas’ and at the Marsh is near entrance to the church--so, if you have any concerns about poor ventilation, please sit in the back pews.
- The *length* of time spent in indoor spaces is a significant factor in transmission. For that reason, our church services will always be kept to an hour or less.
- The *common cup* at the Eucharist is now available for those who desire it. No one should feel obliged to receive the chalice--if you do not wish to do so, simply return to your place once you have received the Bread. The Anglican Church teaches that Christ is “validly & sacramentally present” in either the Bread or the Wine of the Eucharistic meal.
- Please respect those who still wish to physically distance themselves from others when they are in church. We will not be reinstating the “exchange of the peace” (at least in a “vigorous” way) at this time. A friendly nod or wave is fine!
- Please continue to maintain good hand hygiene before, during, and after the church service. Please cover your sneezes!! We will continue to provide hand sanitizer.
- I will continue to video-tape and distribute our Sundays services on Youtube. There will be a two month pause for this when we are at Trinity the Marsh for our summer services, but it will be resumed in the fall.” -- RR

***From the Bishop of Toronto
for the Day of Pentecost, June 5th, 2022***

Dear Friends,

“The pandemic is ending.”

There, on Monday, buried in a tweet from Canadian epidemiologist Dr. David Fisman, were the four words we have all been waiting for since March 2020, when the COVID-19 virus first hit our province in force and our society, and our churches, started to shut down. Twenty-seven months later, “the pandemic is ending.” It is hard to describe the emotions that this phrase evokes.

Let me be clear: Dr. Fisman’s message is still cautionary. COVID-19 will be with us forever, and variants continue to develop. New diseases will emerge that threaten our health and safety. But we have reached a place where the lifting of our COVID-19 restrictions and protocols is reasonable. On Sunday, as the Diocese of Toronto moves to “Green Stage” – the complete removal of all COVID-19-related restrictions (with the exception of the vaccine mandate for all clergy, staff and volunteers) – we give thanks and all glory to God, who inspired and sustained this Church over the past two years.

This Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost, when the Church celebrates the moment when, gathered together, the community of the faithful received the gift of the Holy Spirit and burst forth from its seclusion, isolation and fear – anointed by wind and flame – to preach in new and exciting ways the Good News of Christ Jesus. We too are ready to be infused by the power of the Holy Spirit, to come out of our buildings and invite people into a relationship with the Risen Lord.

We have learned so much about ourselves, the foundation of what it means to be Church, our strengths and abilities, our interconnectedness and loyalty to each other, and also where our frailties and vulnerabilities lie. It will take some time to synthesize all that we’ve discovered during the pandemic. Yet crisis illustrates character. I believe the Church in the Diocese of Toronto has exhibited our love of God through love of neighbour in countless selfless ways.

I am so grateful to those who have shepherded this Diocese through the past two years. One person in particular deserves a special shout-out today: the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, chair of the Bishop’s Committee on Healing Ministries and our chaplain at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, where the first Canadian case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in January 2020. Canon Jo has been a God-given gift to our Diocese: in regularly advising the College of Bishops, in following the science and synthesizing and interpreting it for us, in helping to craft our COVID-19 guidelines at every stage, in patiently answering questions from clergy and lay leaders, and in being a faithful priest, pastor and health-care advocate and guide throughout. I thank God for you, Jo.

So, dear friends, whether your parish chooses to remove all of its COVID-19 restrictions this Sunday, or if you choose to move more slowly over the coming weeks and months ahead, I thank you. I thank you for your trust and compliance in following our guidelines along the way. I know there were times when you disagreed with them. (I heard about it!) There were undoubtedly times when we got things wrong. But I appreciate your solidarity and loyalty with the wider Church, your belief in the leadership, and your willingness to show care and compassion for the least among us.

Dr. Fisman also tweeted something else that is irrefutable. About eight months into this pandemic, he wrote: "The Anglicans have been amazing." Yes, you have been. I am so proud and grateful.

All blessings for a Spirit-filled Pentecost.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

Clean-up morning at Trinity the Marsh, Saturday, June 25th, 9.30 am to noon.

We will be starting summer services indoors at Trinity the Marsh, County Road 21 at Glamorgan Road, on *Sunday, July 3rd*. In advance of that, we need to do a thorough cleaning of the interior of the chapel. Volunteers are needed! Please bring rags, cleaning potions, brooms, mops, etc, etc. Remember: there is no running water (bring a container of water if you can-- but only if it is not too much trouble). There is no electricity--although we may have a generator to run a vacuum cleaner (not absolutely necessary). There will be a sign-up sheet at St Thomas' this Sunday.

"Permission to Survive" - Please use the following link to learn more about and, if you wish, sign an online petition from ***"One City Peterborough"*** concerning the ongoing plight of homeless people in Peterborough: <https://mailchi.mp/11dcdb87c22a/permission-to-survive?e=e2e727ac7f>

"Spirit Garden" - Anglicans across the diocese are encouraged to support a special memorial at Nathan Philips Square in Toronto that honours the survivors of Canada's Indian Residential Schools. You are invited to watch the Bishop's video on the diocesan website which explains the nature of and reasons for this memorial and explains the ways in which both individuals and parishes can contribute:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/news/bishop-urges-support-of-spirit-garden-project/>

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>

Parish office hours: The parish secretary is usually in the office on *Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon*. Please feel free to call (705-932-2233) during these times.
Messages left will be returned during office hours only.

*For any imporant matter, please call the Priest-in-Charge at home: 705-932-1231
If the voicemail is turned off, and you cannot leave a message, please try his cell:
705-313-9002*

The Churchwardens are extremely grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of parishioners and friends of our parish who are making an on-going effort to keep up their regular offerings.

In addition to making an offering at church on Sundays, donations can be made in the following ways:

- ***By regular mail*** addressed 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 Neiman at the parish office at or email her at cavmanparish@nexicom.net to arrange this. *It is easy to do!*
- ***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 easy and secure online donation link on our parish website.*** Charitable donation receipts are issued automatically on our behalf by Canada Helps. Here is the link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119202950RR0001-st-thomas-church/>