



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

June 12, 2020

Dear friends,
Welcome to the thirteenth edition of our weekly newsletter. We expect this newsletter to continue as long as

we cannot meet in person. A limited number of paper copies will be placed at the link doors for people who do not have access to email.

Letter from the Bishop

Dear Friends,

I commend to you the Anglican Church of Canada's Episcopal Statement concerning racism, issued on June 8, 2020. (sent as a separate attachment with this newsletter)

Systemic, intentional and gratuitous racism is a present and persistent reality in all our communities. Racism is both conscious and unconscious, and is always insidious, dehumanizing those who are targeted and those who perpetrate.

Racism is utterly incompatible with the life and teachings of Jesus. We who seek to follow him must be unafraid to cross over the boundaries of denial and repression to hear how racism undermines the dignity of individuals and groups, and to understand our complicity in perpetuating racist structures, language and attitudes.

The video of George Floyd's violent death gave graphic insight into his final experience of racism, and it has rightly awakened outrage. Making space to hear and listen to racialized brothers and sisters speak of how racism cuts into self-esteem, safety and opportunity is the transformative next step.

Becoming acutely aware of the prevalence of racism in our communities, and in our own actions, words and thoughts, and turning

from and rejecting racism in all its forms, is integral to our vocation as followers of Jesus Christ.

To quote my colleague, Bishop Peter Fenty of Toronto: "I believe that we must make a commitment to take action at this time and not just make statements to soothe and placate. Systemic racism is real and negatively impacts the lives of many people. We all must work towards dismantling it. May God give us the grace and courage to do so."

Amen.

+Shane

"Shout Outs"

Recently Father Julian introduced the "shout outs". If you would like some special occasion like an anniversary or birthday acknowledged in the Sunday service, he will be more than happy to announce it. However, it must be into either Father Julian or the office by Tuesday noon for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

This week's shout outs include:

- Garrett Greer turns 9 on June 16

Sunday Morning Service

Although we cannot attend Sunday morning worship, we have put together a recording for June 14. It should arrive in your inbox on June 13.

Accompanying the recording will be a file which has the complete service including the readings if you would like to read them. Unfortunately, the sermon will not be transcribed and you will need to listen to the video to hear it. Many, many thanks to Alex Dee who is doing the video production for this endeavour.

Because of the method of recording different sections at different times and then melding

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them together, we are able to follow the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa guidelines on Physical Distancing. There are no more than three of us in the church at any one time and we maintain a distance of 2m between us.

Pastoral Care in an Era of Physical Distancing

The Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program (OPCTP) is offering an on-line session on the topic of "Pastoral Care in an Era of Physical Distancing". Joyce Hamelin, a social worker for more than 35 years, will provide practical advice and useful tips on how to initiate a conversation, how to engage people and how to minister to them. She will also consider how we can communicate effectively and confidentially during these current circumstances. The event will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, 24 June from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. OPCTP are asking that people register by Friday, June 19 and pay \$15. More information can be obtained at <https://ottawapastoralcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Poster-for-June-Zoom-Event.pdf>. If you are interested in participating in the session, please contact Georgia Roberts (<mailto:cs295@ncf.ca>) so that we could do a group booking of St Mark's people.

Three evenings with Doctrine of Discovery

Next Sunday, we will be marking National Indigenous Day of Prayer. In advance of this, the Diocesan All My Relations (AMR) working group invites you to a 3-part showing, via Zoom, of the film '*Doctrine of Discovery, Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts*' with discussion following. This is a challenging truthful documentary that explains the history of the Doctrine of Discovery and its continuing impact on both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

From 7:00 - 8:30PM on each of the three evenings we'll show a section of the 67 minute film, followed by a facilitated discussion.

HEAVEN

by Ruth Latta

It's heaven on earth to spend time with a friend
whom you haven't seen in a while.
You talk and you listen, you cannot offend;
you both share your thoughts with a smile.

But then out of nowhere, the clock strikes the hour;
the horizon devours the sun.
Though we would continue if we had the power
our brief time together is done.

Pandemics and poverty, distance and fear
conspire to keep us apart,
and though we make new friends of those who are near
our older friends stay in our hearts.

There must be a heaven, a place after death
where we will have plenty of time,
where sharing emotions is easy as breath
and friendship is always sublime.

© Ruth Latta, 2009, 2020

Ruth Latta is a regular attendee at Coffee, Company and Conversation.

Different evenings have been chosen to make it as accessible as possible. We hope you can come to see all sections of the film, or even 1 or 2 of the events.

To register for each showing click on the links below:

Monday June 15th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvd-mopj8rGdfaYDzDSg5kbs9nVri10-ZZ>

Friday June 19th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvduuvrjgvEt1-m1AXQIDSticOGedz1dff>

Tuesday June 23rd

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-GsrDspG9X-MrUMjqEqianM5soCZnEE>

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The film can be viewed beforehand, free of charge, at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQwkB1hn5E8>

Fabric Face Masks

There is a certain amount of distrust in North America of people covering their faces, even with masks, unless they are in a job which makes it prudent. It may be something we all have to grapple with in the new "normal". As you may have seen in the news, masks are becoming part of the strategy for re-opening the Province and some stores are starting to require masks for you to enter.

If anyone would like a fabric mask, there are sewers at St Mark's who can make you one. Just let the office know. It has been taking just over a week to fill the orders so don't give up if you have ordered.

Sharing Coffee Hour

If you would like to share a photo, a recipe of what you would have made for coffee hour and/or a short hello message with a few details of what you've been up to, then you are welcome to do so. The editor will not seek out people but would be happy to receive submissions.

Coffee Hour with Joan Hounsell

Since our last in person church service on March 8 much has changed in our world.

As I read on CNN.com today : *Masks, social isolation, touch: How coronavirus deprived us of the closeness we are programmed to need when we are most vulnerable.* The past 3 + months have been difficult and challenging in many ways. However, we have much to be thankful for in Canada. We have food, utilities, wifi and many other essential services that have never let us down.

Personally I have enjoyed numerous phone calls with parishioners and friends. There have been many laughs and stories shared. I have enjoyed shopping for others who are isolating

and delivering groceries to those who cannot get out. The church newsletters and the wonderful Sunday Services have kept me connected to St Mark's. I thank Fr Julian, Joy, Alex and Ariane for their dedication and weekly commitment to all of us.

Sadly, my trip to England in May was cancelled and my daughter's trip home from Winnipeg to dog and house sit never happened.

Thank goodness for FaceTime and WhatsApp for keeping me connected to friends and family out of town.

I look forward to the Sunday (hopefully in September) when we are together again.

Take care during this pause,

Joan Hounsell

Coffee Hour with Carolyn Findlay

Hi Everyone,

Where to start? We have been busy doing things around the house that needed to be done a long ago now that we are stuck at home most of the time outside of doing grocery shopping. We started painting the inside of our house after the school break in March. When we heard of the lockdown. Peter and I finished putting up a railing on our deck that we built last summer.



We have also been planting flowers and "trying" to grow grass in our front yard

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instead of weeds. Caitlyn loves being outside riding her bike and scooter. She also likes drawing pictures with her side walk chalk. We have set up a kiddie pool in the backyard. We had a family fun water balloon fight a few weeks ago when it was really hot out.

The kids and I had some fun making slime.



Caitlyn had an awesome drive by birthday party last Saturday. I can't believe she is 9 years old already. The kids are missing their friends from school and at church. We have also been doing social distancing walks once a week with Peter's parents. Now our next project is opening and getting the trailer ready for the summer. That is all for now. Stay safe and we will see each other very soon.

Carolyn Findlay

Donations to the Church

We are extremely fortunate at St Mark's that there are a number of people who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). That gives us some source of income during this time that there is no public worship. If you are not on PAR, we would encourage you to continue your donations. Of course, putting a cheque in the mail is always a great option for getting your donation to us. If you wish to make a donation by credit card, you may do so at CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47820>.

You will have to remember when you go to do your taxes for 2020 where you have put

your receipts from CanadaHelps. If you cannot find them, contact CanadaHelps and they will be happy to issue duplicate receipts. All money donated will be put in to the appropriate income category when it comes to us.

Contacting the Church

Contacting the office has actually not changed at all. You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca.

Messages are being monitored and the business of the church is continuing, albeit remotely.

Comments and Suggestions

If you have anything you would like to see in next week's newsletter, please email the church at stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca.

Every week I do captions for the videos. YouTube does automatic captions but it can't really do them for music or when more than one person is speaking. Fr Julian, when speaking of his childhood, often gives it a bit of trouble. Occasionally, what it comes up with is quite funny. This week, it actually managed to capture some of the words for the first hymn but instead of "Give us grace in this all things". It came up with something that seemed strangely apt. So, my friends, I close with this. - Joy

