



St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

Weekly Newsletter

March 20, 2020

Dear friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our weekly newsletter. We expect this newsletter to continue as long as

we cannot meet in person. As had been said many times in the last week, what strange times we are living in. To steal from Fr Julian's sermon for this coming Sunday, "Who would have imagined two months ago that this is where we would be?" (Exciting news on this later.)

This coming Sunday is the Fourth Sunday after Lent which we traditionally celebrate as Mothering Sunday. Although we will be missing our Simnel Cake, the Mothers' Union assures me we will have some when we can meet together again.

Church Building

The church building is closed to all groups in the church and all of our renters. A few of us are going in from time to time to check on things and prepare for the newsletter.

Contacting the Church

Contacting the office and Fr Julian has actually not changed at all. Since before Joy started working as the administrator in January 2015, all phone messages were emailed to the recipient as a sound file. Joy has always picked up the messages in this way. Likewise, any message left for Fr Julian is sent to his email address. What has changed for the office is the office hours. Until further notice, there will be no volunteers in the office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings. In managing other work, the only work that absolutely has to be done in the office is printing . . . and we are not doing much of that right now. The post is being picked up, any cheques coming in are being deposited,

emails are being sent, cheques are being written and correspondence taken care of whether the physical building is open or not.

Caring for our parish community

Cynthia and Georgia are looking into ways to stay in contact and perhaps provide assistance to some of our seniors. If you would either like to be contacted or be willing to phone people, please get in touch with Cynthia at 613-723-2680 greercynthia69@yahoo.com or Georgia Roberts at 613-226-5693 georgia.roberts@ncf.ca.

Caring for our wider community

With fundraising events cancelled and increasing financial hardship on many of our lower income families, many of the food banks are looking for extra funds. Georgia got in touch with Barbara Carroll to ask whether financial donations should be made to the central food bank, or to DDFH for the food bank location situated there. Her response was the following: "I'm very grateful to the main food bank. We could not do what we do without them, but having said that, please encourage people to donate local to us at Debra. We will need to constantly fill gaps as our families do not have any capacity to stockpile. People can always designate how and where their moneys will be spent. It's a little trickier with food and baby supplies as we need to monitor and fill where needed most. All cheques/cash are tax deductible. Grocery gift cards work and if we have the original receipt and address/name/details we can tax receipt those too. Hope this helps. Regards, Barbara."

The easiest way to make a donation is by going to the DDFH website <http://debradynes.ncf.ca/> and donating through CanadaHelps. You can specify that you want your donation to go to their food

bank there. And you get your tax receipt right away

It is also possible to send a cheque to St Mark's and it will be sent on but that takes a bit more time.

Sunday Morning Service

Although we cannot attend Sunday morning worship, we have put together a recording of Morning Prayer for Sunday March 22. It will be sent around in a different email, probably on March 21. We are still working through some of the ins and outs. Different parts were recorded on different days to minimize risks so you may notice some inconsistencies. Accompanying the recording will be a file which has the complete service including the readings if you would rather read them. Unfortunately, the sermon will not be transcribed and you will need to listen to video to hear the sermon. Many thanks to Alex Dee who is doing the video production for this endeavour. We will endeavour to continue this every week.

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 hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise.

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becomingminimalist

