



Connections

*God so loved the world that he gave his only son,
that whosoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life.*
John 3:16

**Volume 2
Number 8
March 16 to 31
2020**

“Everybody’s Irish on St. Patrick’s Day!”

People with no ties to Ireland celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, with enthusiasm, but many do not know about the myths and legends we believe about this popular saint.

ST. PATRICK WAS IRISH.

Though one of Ireland’s patron saints, Patrick was born in what is now England, Scotland or Wales to a Christian deacon and his wife, probably around the year 390. According to tradition, at 16 he was enslaved by Irish raiders who attacked his home; they transported him to Ireland and held him captive there for six years. Patrick later fled to England, where he received religious instruction before returning to Ireland to serve as a missionary.

ST. PATRICK’S COLOUR IS GREEN.

The Irish countryside may be many shades of green, but knights in the Order of St. Patrick wore a colour known as St. Patrick’s blue. Why did green become so emblematic of St. Patrick that people began drinking green beer, and

wearing green to mark the holiday he inspired? The association probably dates back to the 18th century, when supporters of Irish independence used the color to represent their cause.



ST. PATRICK DROVE THE SNAKES OUT OF IRELAND.

Legend says Patrick stood on an Irish hillside and delivered a sermon that drove the island’s snakes into the sea. While it is true that Ireland is snake-free, that has probably been the case throughout human history. Water has surrounded Ireland since the end of the last glacial period, preventing snakes from slithering over; before that, it was covered in ice and too chilly for the cold-blooded creatures. Scholars believe the snake story is an allegory for St. Patrick’s eradication of pagan ideology.

ST. PATRICK WAS THE FIRST TO USE THE SHAMROCK AS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL.

In fact, it has been popular in Ireland for thousands of years. The ancient Celts believed many of the important aspects of life came in groups of three and the shamrock was used to symbolise this. Legend has it that the pagan people St Patrick was trying to convert just couldn’t understand the Trinity, the seemingly contradictory idea that God was both one and three at the same time. So St Patrick is said to have used the three-leaf shamrock as a way of explaining the mystery to them, each leaf representing one facet of God’s nature.

TEMPORARY PRECAUTIONS as advised by the diocese



**Please use hand sanitizer
when you enter the church
and before receiving bread
at the altar.**

**Please do not shake hands, hug
one another or move
around at the
passing of the Peace.
Just nod or smile at
each other as we sing
“Let There be Peace on Earth”.**



**There will be no coffee
hour after the 10am
service for the next few
weeks.**

**CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH
155 Markham Road
416-261-4169**

**office@christchurchscarborough.com
Website:www.christchurchscarborough.com**

**Holy Communion Sunday 8:30 and 10 am
Morning Prayer Tuesday 9:30 am**

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CLERGY AND PEOPLE IN THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

*(To be read at every service on March 8, 2020 and then posted or published
in each parish for the duration of the protocol.)*

Dear Friends in Christ:

We continue to monitor the unfolding situation with COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We are aware that many people are anxious about the apparent lack of containment for this disease. We pray for all those who are dealing with this virus: patients and their families, and the health-care workers and scientists who are searching for a cure. It is the informed opinion of our Bishop's Committee on the Healing Ministries, chaired by the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, chaplain at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre's Bayview Campus and St John's Rehab, that the time has come to alter our liturgical practices.

As was the case during the SARS epidemic of 2003, here in the Diocese of Toronto **we are suspending the sharing of the common cup at celebrations of the Eucharist.** Presiding celebrants are to consecrate both the bread and the wine, and to consume in both kinds, but to administer only the bread to the rest of the congregation. The Church's ancient teaching is that the whole Christ is received whether one receives only consecrated bread or both bread and wine. This protocol is effective today and to be continued until further notice.

Additionally, we are advising people to share words and smiles only, not handshakes or hugs, during the Exchange of the Peace. Those churches that have repositories of still water, for example fonts or stoops, are to refresh the water daily or discontinue their use at this time. We ask every Anglican to practice rigorous handwashing and to self-quarantine at home if feeling unwell.

Together all of us can help mitigate both risk and fear in our communities by exercising this due diligence.

Our normal liturgical customs are important to us, and we hope to reinstate them as soon as we are advised that the risk of transmission has been better contained.

We believe that gathering for corporate worship as the Body of Christ is an integral part of, and not antithetical to, healthy living. We encourage our parishioners and worshipping communities to continue to meet and offer prayers and praise to our merciful God, who in the person of Jesus offers us the gifts of hope and healing for fullness of life.

May God richly bless you all in this Season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Adelw Toronto*

JOSEPH, THE UNKNOWN PROTECTOR

On March 19 the Church honours St. Joseph. Except for the fact that he was the husband of Jesus' mother, Mary, very little is known about this carpenter from a small town in an obscure part of Roman-occupied Palestine.

We first meet him when he is faced with a huge problem. His fiancée is pregnant, and he has the right to cast her off for the sake of his own pride and reputation. But he does not, and we begin to see the depth of compassion in the character of this good man.



Joseph with Jesus - statue in a church at Millegem, Belgium

Joseph cares for Mary, during the long and arduous journey to Bethlehem. And after the birth, when their child Jesus is in danger of death by the king's order, he flees with his family to Egypt. There he provides for their needs until it is safe to return to Galilee and live in Nazareth.

We last see Joseph as he and Mary frantically search for the lost twelve

year old Jesus in Jerusalem, until they find him in the Temple.

The time of Joseph's death is unknown, except that he probably died before Jesus' public ministry began and was certainly dead before the crucifixion.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of the universal Roman Catholic Church and a symbol of the protective nature of fatherhood.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 15 Exodus 17: 1 to 7; Psalm 95; Romans 5: 1 to 11; John 4: 5 to 42

March 22 1 Samuel 16: 1 to 13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5: 8 to 14; John 9: 1 to 41

March 29 Ezekiel 37: 1 to 14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6 to 11; John 11: 1 to 45

History for Christians

In the year 325 at the Council of Nicaea, it was decided that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox. This means that Easter Day will never occur earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.



On March 27, 1667 *Paradise Lost*, an epic poem in blank verse by the English poet John Milton, was published. It consisted of ten books with over ten thousand lines of verse, telling the story of humanity's Fall and placing the story within the larger context of Satan's rebellion and Jesus' resurrection.

Milton later wrote *Paradise Regained*, with the theme of Christian heroism, meaning enduring faith in God, belief in prayer, and a spiritual strength to persevere through obstacles. The character of Jesus Christ is the epitome of Christian heroism.

On March 23, 1729 the first performance of Bach's "St Matthew's Passion" took place in Germany. Today, the oratorio is considered one of the most sublime masterpieces in Western music. From its score comes the haunting Good Friday hymn "O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded".



Please pray for these members of our faith community

Anne S, Annet K, Beverly B,
Corinne P, Deb A, David M,
Florence S, Jenille L, Joan & John N,
Leonora B, Lennox and Leonora Y,
Maureen C, Valerie A, Viggy M.

and for all those affected by the COVID-19 virus



LENTEN AND EASTER OBSERVANCES AT CHRIST CHURCH

The traditions of this holy season ask us to share the final week of our Saviour's life on earth, through the clamouring crowd, the sinister betrayal and the horror of the cross, to the crown of the Christian year, Easter Day.



APRIL 5 8:30 Quiet Eucharist

10:00 Choral Eucharist with the crucifixion gospel

They wanted a Messiah, someone who would drive out their Roman oppressors. So they shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" when the charismatic preacher from Nazareth rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. We begin our journey to Golgotha with these misguided people.

APRIL 6, 7 and 8 11:00 am

We spend a little time each morning retracing the tragic procession that took Jesus from the place where he had been brutally beaten to the cruel cross where he would die. Our thoughts are directed with meditations and prayers as we move from one step to the next as He did on that awful day.



APRIL 9 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

We walk this road again.

7:00 pm Choral Eucharist

We re-enact the supper that Jesus sanctified to his memory. Our feet are washed as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Finally we strip the altar and empty the chancel of every article that gives us joy in the living Redeemer, as we remember that he died. The chancel becomes a tomb.

APRIL 10 9:30 am Stations of the Cross

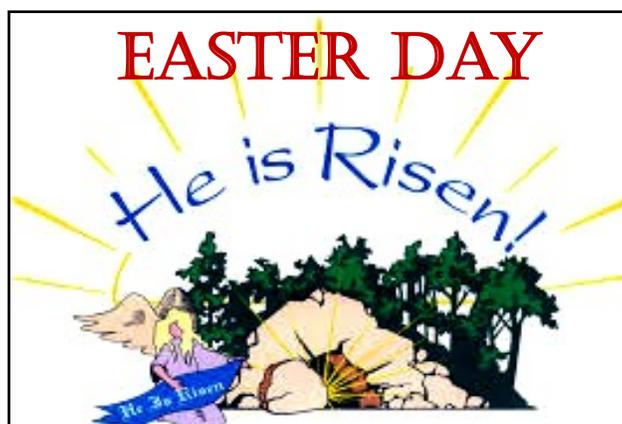
We walk this sad road one final time before we face the reality of the cross.

10:00 am Good Friday service.

Reflective, asking us to stand with him as he suffers for us.

1:00 pm Interactive Family service

This service is for all ages, helping children and parents to enter into the events of the season together.



APRIL 12 8:30 am Early on the Third Day

Quiet Easter Eucharist, peaceful and joyous

10:00 am Festival Eucharist

Holy Communion, choir and bells will celebrate our Lord's resurrection on the day that changed the world forever.

After the service An Easter Egg Hunt for the children.





March Break Youth Opportunity



Who?

Youth 14 to 19 years old looking for resume writing and job-finding skills



When?

Wednesday, March 18
1 to 3 pm



Where?

Christ Church, 155 Markham Road
East side south of Eglinton

Register today at
office@christchurchscarborough.com
or call 416-261-4169
Deadline March 16.

What will you get out of it?

Free halal-friendly food
Free TTC ticket
Opportunity to learn from a job-search expert



In collaboration with Gateway Training Centre.
Funded by the Anglican Church Community Connections Grant.



West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre



Gateway