



# Connections

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*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe John 20:29*

Springtime means renewal and growth, as nature comes alive after the cold of winter. One way to renew and grow our faith is to



reach out to one another as Christians and share it.

*Connections* is one avenue for us to come together. This is the first issue of a message that will be arriving in your online mailbox twice a month. You are

receiving it because your e-mail address is in the Christ Church computer, so we consider you part of the family.

*Connections* is geared mainly to those people who can't be with us every Sunday morning, and don't hear the latest news about our vibrant parish. We will include information about what festivals and saints days Anglicans are celebrating, and what holy days our neighbours of other faiths are observing during each two-week period. United Nations and Canadian holidays will also be described, in case you are wondering what they are about.

You will be alerted to events coming up at Christ Church, and invited to pray with us for members of the congregation who need our support.

We hope you find *Connections* an interesting addition to your spiritual journey.

## COMING SOON



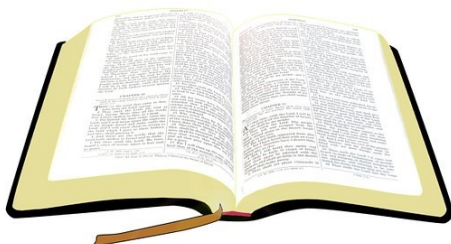
May 2 - 7pm Bishop's Town Hall meeting at St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough, on Victoria Park Avenue. Register online through [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca). Bishop Asbil wants to hear from a wide range of people about where they feel God is calling the diocese to go.

May 4 - 9:30am to 1pm Flea Market and Bake Sale at Christ Church. Interesting finds and tasty goodies. What could be better!



May 4 - 1pm Panel discussion about Medical Assistance in Dying at St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough.

May 14 - 7pm Annual Memorial service at Trilogy Long Term Care Residence on Eglinton Avenue at McCowan Road. Evensong is also led by Christ Church on the second Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend.



*Scripture readings for May 5:* Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30: 4-12, Revelation 5: 11-14, John 21:

*Readings for May 12 (Mothers' Day):* Acts 9: 36-43, Psalm 23: 4-12, Revelation 7: 9-17, John 10: 22-30

## **LEAVING EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW JESUS**

*The church remembers many holy and virtuous men and women who have lived and sometimes been killed for their love of God. In each issue of Connections we will offer a brief description of these people as their name days come up. Tradition and recorded history encourage us to follow their examples in our own Christian lives.*

Four of the first apostles of Jesus' small band of loyal friends are remembered during the first half of May each year. They were present at the earliest stages of his ministry and continued his work after his resurrection.

Two were brothers, James and John, who was also called John the Evangelist or John the Divine, and is believed to have written the fourth Gospel, the three letters under his name in the New Testament and the Book of Revelation. James witnessed the rising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration and Jesus' agony at Gethsemane. The brothers were called the "sons of thunder" because of their fiery zeal in Jesus' service.

Philip, another early disciple, was present when John the Baptist first pointed to Jesus and declared him to be the Lamb of God.

Philip was from Bethsaida, like Andrew and Peter.

The fourth apostle remembered at this time is Matthias. He was with Jesus when he was baptized by John the Baptist and was one of the 72 sent out to preach and to heal the sick.

After the Ascension, the eleven apostles who were left chose another to fill the place of Judas the traitor. Two faithful workers were named, so lots were drawn and Matthias became the twelfth apostle.



**We are asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ: Vicky, Carlene, Annet, Carol, Fred, Cathy, Carol-Anne and her family, Gwen, Joan, John**

## **A MYSTIC AND A SOCIAL REFORMER**

Two very different women, Julian of Norwich, a 14th century spiritual teacher, and Florence Nightingale, a who nursed wounded soldiers during the Crimean war, are honoured by the church in May.

Julian's book, *Revelations of Divine Love*, looks at some of the most profound mysteries of the Christian faith. She was never made a saint, but was and still is revered for the sincerity and beauty of her mind and the depth of her theological understanding.

Florence Nightingale was a woman born to wealth but determined to be useful. She is one of the most famous women in British history for her work as a head nurse in the Crimean war and her lifelong efforts to promote reformed nurses training and cleaner hospitals.

Known as "The Lady with the Lamp" for her habit in Crimea of going around the wards to comfort sick and dying men, she was respected by all in England and honoured by Queen Victoria, who presented her with this medal.



## **Ramadan Mubarak!**

Beginning on May 5 and ending on June 4, our Muslim neighbours will observe Ramadan, the holiest month in their calendar. This is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, commemorating the first time the Koran was revealed to Muhammed, according to Islamic belief.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, charity, devotion and worship, and is marked by fasting from food and water from dawn until sunset. The fast is obligatory for all healthy adults, with certain exceptions related to health and travelling. It is believed that fasting teaches self-discipline and builds empathy for those less fortunate.

Muslims are also encouraged to read the whole Koran during this month, which ends with a great festival called Eid al-Fitr.

The greeting "Ramadan Mubarak!" means "Have a blessed Ramadan".

