



Connections

*Be still and know that I am God.
Psalm 46: 10*

**SPECIAL
ISSUE #2**



About our sign

The Sign Committee, which has been at work for several months, met with the contractor on Tuesday by teleconference. The purpose of the meeting was to iron out some final details before the reconstruction of what will be

an attractive and welcoming addition to our message to the community.

And no, the new sign will not look like the one pictured here! There will be bright colour, interesting graphics and the ability to change the message we present as often as we choose. It has been a long wait, but we are assured that we will have this sign on our front lawn by April 30.

Serving the community

One of Christ Church's very important outreach activities is the monthly Community Meal arranged by our women's group. In response to the present crisis, convenor Hyacinth Harvey says; "The lunch will be take-out. We will be distributing from the top or bottom of the stairs and will inform our guests that, if the risk increases, we will be suspending until further notice. We will ask them to check at the door as that time approaches for information detailing when next we will meet."



We are often reminded that the Church is not a building, but a fellowship of believers. At this time, when our dear building on Markham Road is closed to avert the spread of disease, we need to know about what is happening in our fellowship. To that end, we will be sending you brief updates through additional issues of Connections as events develop.

If you know of anyone who is part of our parish family and is not on the internet, please send us their names and we will reach them by regular mail. The address for this information is: aandshepherd@rogers.com

BIBLE STUDIES CONTINUE ... IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Twenty-two people had just begun a Lenten Bible study based on Jesus' I AM sayings, when suddenly they could not meet together at Christ Church any more. This was a blow to the discussions they had been enjoying, but it did not put an end to their study sessions.

Each person had a comprehensive binder of study material, and most of the program depended on what they did at home before they met. As they adjusted to the limitations of this new reality, a letter arrived from Fr. Roy. It said, in part, "No virus, even one so widespread, should stop us from studying Scripture in order to get closer to our Lord."

This challenge opened the door to continuing the study at home, with family or by computer or phone with friends. From now until Easter, those who accept the challenge are preparing for a joyous celebration no disease can overcome.

The Deacon's Cupboard

Christ Church takes seriously our baptismal promise to care for those in need, so every Sunday we collect, not just money, but the practical items of food our neighbours require to keep themselves and their children healthy.

The Deacon's Cupboard will be open between 9:30 and 10:30 on Thursdays to maintain this vital ministry. If you wish to offer a gift of food to support the Cupboard, please bring it to the church on Thursdays when it is open.



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**ALL SERVICES AND MEETINGS
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

A Message from our Pastor

May the peace that passes all understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(paraphrase of Philippians 4:7)

It has not gone past me that this COVID 19 pandemic has taken place during the season of Lent. It gives us even more to reflect on during this liturgical church season. Given that Lent asks us to reflect on what is important (to reorient and put God and neighbour first) and the fact that we are reminded that we are "from dust"... the finitude of our lives that is spoken of in the Ash Wednesday service, which begins Lent ... I think that our circumstances frame Lent quite a bit differently this year.

This reorientation toward God during Lent means that we are called to draw closer to God during this time. It is not a time to fear, but to keep in mind that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which Romans 8 so clearly tells us. Not death nor life ... or is it the other way around, not life nor death. These times can have us brood on death perhaps more than life. God is the God of the living and he is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let's find ways to hold onto the God of hope during Lent.

There are stories of life this Lent that take the form of loving our neighbour. A clergy colleague told of getting a call from a filming company that, because their production was shut down, had perishable items of eggs and fruit that they were not using. They asked if they could contribute to the church's food bank. The day care that rents from CCSV also had perishables that they donated to our food bank.

As living members of Christ's body we are called to see God's life through the way others act in service and to consider what we might do to serve. This could mean a phone-call or buying extra groceries for someone in need. We are called to pray for those who will feel the financial/emotional/medical ramifications of COVID 19 in challenging or severe ways.

Finally, yes, we are made from dust and feel our limits, even more so now that we are placed under the limits of social distancing. Just as God breathed life into the first humans, let us ask for God's spirit to give us life; to blow away the cobwebs of helplessness and place hope. Let us renew our sense of reliance of God and not on ourselves.

I end with some of the words of a hymn attributed to St. Patrick, whose feast day was celebrated on Tuesday.

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same
The Three in One and One in Three....

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Last minute notes

Administrator Ellen Cunningham will be in the church office on Thursday from 9 am to 12 noon. Feel free to send in your offering envelope or drop it off through the front door mail-slot at the church. There will be someone to take care of it on a weekly basis.

Fr. Roy is putting a sermon on the Christ Church website each week so that people have another place to go for spiritual food.

These are a few of the many parishes offering services on their websites and other platforms.

St. James Cathedral, Sundays at 11 a.m. from the [Diocese of Toronto Facebook page](#)
Christ Church, Bolton, Monday-Friday Morning Prayer at 9 a.m., Sunday service at 10 a.m. on [Christ Church's Facebook page](#).

Christ Church St. James, weekly recorded worship videos on [its website](#).

Holy Trinity, Thornhill, Sunday Ante-Communion at 10 a.m. [on Zoom](#).

Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst, Sunday at 10:30 a.m. from the [St. Paul's Facebook page](#)

Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst, the Litany, Monday-Friday at noon from [St. John's Facebook page](#)

Church of the Resurrection, Sunday Morning Prayer, 10:30 a.m. [on YouTube](#).

St. Bartholomew, Regent Park, weekly sermon and mass recordings [on YouTube](#)

St. Dunstan of Canterbury, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on [St. Dunstan's YouTube channel](#)

St. George on-the-Hill, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on its [website](#) and Facebook [page](#)

As we hear of more parishes, we will let you know.