

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION

All around the world in the last couple of days a curious slogan has appeared: "Je suis Charlie". It is a response to the craven massacre of twelve people—including journalists, visitors, custodial or administrative staff, and two police officers—by masked gunmen in Paris on Wednesday. The shooters, who were killed by French police on Friday afternoon, were apparently retaliating for the satirical cartoons that Charlie Hebdo, a French satire magazine, published depicting the prophet Muhammad in demeaning and irreverent postures. The massacre has touched off a worldwide debate on the sanctity of the freedom of expression and of the right of the press to engage in satire. Many have adopted "Je suis Charlie" as a sign of their solidarity with those who were murdered and of their conviction that speech must remain free, even in the face of the threat of death and violence from extremists. On CBC Radio on Friday morning, there was a debate about whether the cartoons in question should be republished by the media as accompaniment to the news stories and there were passionate arguments for and against. I myself cannot adopt the slogan, "Je suis Charlie", because, as much as I condemn the violent murders and lament the perversion of Islam by such radical extremists, I also cannot stand in solidarity with a magazine that engages in the most base form of satire. It is neither funny nor well-drawn and is often racist, demeaning, and incendiary. I am not playing "blame the victim", but at the same time, the popular culture is making these people into martyrs, which I am not convinced they were.

Why is this important to us in church today? I believe it is important because it speaks to a wider societal trend where, with a twenty-four hour news cycle, the media must always have content in order to sate the enormous appetite of TV, print, and internet news consumers. This means that there are often snap judgements and assumptions made, often wrong, because there is so little time for reflection. In our globalised world, we encounter innumerable people who think, speak, interact, and believe differently than we do. It's easy to believe that our comfortable old existence is under threat from external influences like immigrants with a different language, culture, and religion. This is what Charlie Hebdo appears to have believed and they manifested this belief through grotesque depictions of a religion towards which they were clearly intolerant and antagonistic.

Today we mark the Baptism of the Lord. We have only just finished the Christmas season, wherein we celebrated the birth of Jesus, and already we find ourselves thirty years later on the banks of the Jordan witnessing Jesus being baptised by John. In their dialogue, Jesus tells John that he has come to be baptised and John replies that, surely, Jesus must be wrong for it would make more sense for Jesus to baptise John. Jesus insists, claiming that it must be so in order to fulfil Scripture, and John complies. As Jesus rises up from the water, the Holy Spirit is present and the voice from heaven declares, "This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well-pleased."

In this moment, Jesus takes his place among men and women. In the Incarnation, we rejoice that Jesus was born a man. In his baptism, we find that he intends to live as any ordinary one of us would. The connection to the news stories this week is this: as Jesus takes his place among us, we hear spoken to us the same words of God's pleasure in us. Our response, then, demands that we perceive others to also be God's beloved children. When we are confronted with hatred, violence, and death, let us respond as Jesus would: by standing beside our brothers and sisters, and retaliating not with violence and hate but with love and peace.



## THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

*To be a Spirit-filled and life-giving place where strangers become friends and friends become disciples.*

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# SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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**Sunday 11 January 2015**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**

### SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

Jan-Mar and Jul-Sep—All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd  
Apr-Jun and Oct-Dec—Christ Church, 52 South Church Ln

### PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith  
rector@parishoftyendinaga.org

### QUEEN ANNE PARISH CENTRE

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### **Mission Statement**

Our mission, for the glory of God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to:

- Celebrate all that God has done for us through worship and witness with others.
- Respond to our call to be disciples of Christ by sharing our faith, rooted in the Word of God, with others and encouraging others to become followers of Christ through word and action.
- Practice good stewardship of our human, financial and environmental resources, working to ensure that all of God's Creation is viable for future generations.
- Grow ourselves and others by reaching out to our communities, following Jesus' example of generous caring, giving, and welcoming.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Food Bank Donations**—We gather non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of each month and donate them to the Food Bank. The Food Bank is experiencing a significant increase in the number of families it serves so this is a material way we can help our neighbours. The next Food Bank Sunday is 1 Feb.

**Annual Meeting of Vestry**—Sun 1 Feb. We will have a potluck lunch immediately after the service (please bring a dish to share plus your feast basket with plates, utensils etc) and then begin the Vestry meeting as we're finishing lunch. Reports from Wardens etc are due to Brad or Elsie by Thu 15 Jan. Please see the insert for a letter from Parish Council about Vestry.

**Absence of the Rector**—Brad will be away on a course from 10 Feb to 24 Feb. Pastoral emergencies will be covered by Cathie Vick.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**—Tue 17 Feb, 5-7 p.m., QAPC. Come enjoy a supper complete with pancakes, sausages, and bacon—the ancient custom of using up the fatty and sugary foods in the house before the Lenten fast began on Ash Wednesday. The pancake supper is free as a gesture of hospitality to our community so we ask parishioners to provide donations to purchase the food. Doug Green is looking for assistance in organising the event.

**Ash Wednesday Liturgy**—Wed 18 Feb, 7 p.m. at All Saints' with Imposition of Ashes and the Celebration of the Eucharist. The Rev'd Dorothy Lancaster will preside.

**Lenten Study**—Starting Wed 25 Feb and continuing for six weeks. We will gather from 5-7 p.m. in the QAPC. Each session will begin with a simple potluck supper and continue with the study. Books available soon.

**A New Ministry!** Under the leadership of Pam Detlor and Pat Brant, the parish is providing adult mentors for students at Quinte Mohawk School in the literacy program. If you are interested in knowing more about this important outreach to young people in our community, please speak to Pam or Pat. Volunteers are always welcome. The program takes place Tue and Thu mornings at QMS.

**Ministry to Residents of the Friendly Manor**—Those who volunteered to assist with this ministry are asked to meet with Brad briefly after church next Sun 18 Jan. Our first visit will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thu 22 Jan.

**2015 Canadian Church Calendars**—There are still some calendars available at the back of the church for \$6.00. Please place your money in the box beside the calendars.

**Rectory Rental**—The rectory is available for rental on a weekly basis as a cottage for tourists, fishermen, etc (and may be rented for shorter periods in the off season). Check out the website at [cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage](http://cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage) and please tell your friends who might need a place to stay!

## PRAYERS THIS WEEK

### *Anglican Communion*

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
Diocese of Langtang (Jos, Nigeria)  
The Rt. Rev'd Stanley Fube

### *Diocese of Ontario*

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton  
Parish of Lansdowne Rear  
The Rev. Canon Karen Freake

### *Companions*

St Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, the Very Rev'd Neal Longe  
HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the Rev'd Canon Denis Mulliner

### *Parish of Tyendinaga*

#### *Custodians*

Pray for the families of: Carla & Ken Barnhardt; Matthew, Heidi  
& Isabella Barnhardt; Vernon & Arline Benn; Elena Betts; Viola Blewett

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY 18 JANUARY

1Samuel 3:1-20  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17  
John 1:43-51

## **Stewardship Reflection**

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

"I fully approve of you," are the words Jesus hears when he is baptized. Do you think that a faithful steward can expect to hear similar words at some point in their journey?

## **Financial Report**

Weekly Need:	\$2,972
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,655</u>
Shortfall last week	\$1,317

Based on the 2015 budget and the number of identifiable givers, the following is what is required of each giver in order to meet our needs:

Weekly: \$42                      Monthly: \$184