

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Today is the middle Sunday of Lent, and last Thursday we passed the midpoint in the season. One of the oldest customs of the Church is to call this fourth Sunday either "Refreshment" or "Mothering" Sunday. The first because the tone of the readings is slightly less penitential and the tenor of the worship on this day is more joyful than the other Sundays in Lent (at least historically). Thus, as the journey through the Lenten season, with its focus on sin and the cross, progressed, this middle Sunday lightened the tone, thereby refreshing the faithful in order that they might be. It is also known as Mothering Sunday because this was the day when the faithful in England would take their offering to the mother-church (cathedral) of the diocese. Although it was not to do with mother's in the original usage, today is also Mother's day in the United Kingdom, the modern manifestation of Mothering Sunday. [They don't observe the greeting card-driven Mother's Day in May that we do in North America.]

Standing here in the middle of Lent, I find myself thinking that it's the perfect place to stop for a moment and to look around. When you're in the middle of a journey, you're ideally situated to look back from where you came and to look forward to where you're going. Looking back for a moment allows you to see how far you've come. Looking forward takes you in the direction you hope to go.

When I did my undergraduate degree in history, one of the lessons that I learned was that we shouldn't study history only for the sake of studying history. We should study it because it helps us to understand who we are and where we've come from, but the lessons of history are best used to help guide us into the future. How often have you heard the saying, "Those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it"? It's important to look back from time to time in order to remember where we've come from. But there's a danger in looking back that we can engage in nostalgia, or worse, become blind to the present all around us. This is what happened to the Israelites as they journeyed through the wilderness. They remembered back to the days in Egypt when (as they remembered it) they had consistent food, drink, and shelter. They even had a routine, something to get out of bed for every day.

But what they failed to remember, as they looked back, was that the stability they enjoyed was in the context of slavery. Sure, they had food and shelter, but they didn't have freedom. [Makes me think of the Conservatives' current Bill C-51 which promises us increased security but at the price of our freedom.] God delivered them from slavery and brought them out into the wilderness so that he might reshape them into his people. All around them were the signs of freedom and the promise of God that he would take care of them until they arrived in the Promised Land. Instead of the promise of the present (and the future), however, they only saw the loss of the past. So, God sent poisonous snakes to bite them in order to snap them out of their reverie. Most importantly, in raising up the serpent on the pole, God reminded them that he alone had the power to give them life.

In the Gospel for this week, Jesus refers to the bronze serpent that Moses raised in the wilderness and uses it as a symbol of his crucifixion. Calling us out of our impulse to look to the past, he urges us to live in the present as we accept the light and life that God offers us. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Will you turn your eyes from the past and look upon him who brings salvation in the present and calls you into the future to live in light and life?



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

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

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday 15 March 2015
Fourth Sunday in Lent

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

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

Lenten Study—Continuing Wed 18 Mar until 1 Apr. 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. There are still a few books available at the front of the church if you'd like to attend. To read this week: Chapter 4 (starts p 33) and the commentary for chapter 4 (starts p 88).

Easter Flowers—If you would like to place flowers in memory of loved ones, please give your list to Sandra John or Cathie Vick and donation to Edgar Tumak by Sun 22 Mar.

Friendly Manor Service—The next ministry team visit for the Friendly Manor is Thu 26 Mar at 10:30 a.m. In winter weather, please bring indoor footwear.

Easter Lunch and Easter Egg Sale—Sun 29 Mar, Noon–3:00 p.m. at the QAPC. Free will offering for a lunch consisting of soup, sandwich, dessert, and beverage. Homemade Easter Eggs for sale, \$3 each. Baked goods and jewellery table. Five gift baskets for raffle, tickets \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or 10 for \$10.

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 5 Apr.

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 and please tell your friends who might need a place to stay!

Camp Hyanto—Registrations are now open. Visit <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/camp-hyanto/> to register online. In the spring Dialogue, parishioners across the diocese were invited to provide financial support to Camp Hyanto in order to assist with the provision of Christian camp ministry to youth. If you are interested, info can be found in the newspaper (page 3) or online (go to the website above and click on the tab that says "2015 PAG form").

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
Missouri (VI—The Episcopal Church)
The Rt. Rev'd Wayne Smith

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
Parish of Parham-Sharbot Lake
The Rev'd George Kwari

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

Servers

Pray for the families of: Marlene & Vincent Castellano; Linda Christie;
Ken & Lois Claus; Mary Claus; Gail Clement

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 22 MARCH

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:5-10

Psalm 119:9-16
John 12:20-33

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

Darkness or light — Jesus tells us that if we live our lives as faithful stewards our deeds will shine out, as we reflect God's dream. How much light do your deeds give off?

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$3,242</u>
Additional funds	\$ 783

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: \$40 Monthly: \$173