

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION

From an early age, I remember one of the lines from this week's Gospel passage as holding special intrigue for me. Jesus says to Andrew and Philip, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Now, long before I understood the theological significance of what Jesus was saying, this notion that the seed had to die was captivating. Growing up on a farm, I encountered all kinds of seeds: grass, cereal crops, vegetables, flowers. The thought that each of these dry little seeds had to die before the new life emerged from them was something that I could not understand (I still can't) but I found out over the years that this is, indeed, what happens. And, from that one seed, fruit is borne. Is it not miraculous, for instance, that one dried up little tomato seed can lead to a plant that produces not just one tomato but many, each one with many seeds contained within it?

Jesus commonly used these agricultural metaphors in order to make his point and this one is one of the most profound and paradoxical. In order for life to occur, first something must die. In this situation, it's not *something* but *someone*. It is Jesus himself who must die and he knows that. Unless he—the grain of wheat—dies, there will be no life. But if he dies, he says, the grain will bear much fruit. If we fast forward to Easter, we know that the seed (Jesus) falls into the earth and dies (crucifixion) and that life springs forth in the resurrection and much fruit is borne as the disciples begin to tell the good news of the One whom God raised from the dead. The seed that brought this new life so long ago continues to bring new life as we see the Church still at work in the world.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves just yet—Easter is not for two weeks. The darker side to Jesus' saying is the gruesome reality that the abundant life that is promised can only be brought about by suffering and death. Although we have skipped around in what seems like a fairly random fashion in the Gospel of John over the past few weeks, the picture that has been painted for us in this Lenten season is of the mission that Jesus came to fulfil. It began with him turning over the tables of the moneychangers in the temple because he was angry that they had corrupted the temple and were taking advantage of innocent worshippers. Last Sunday, we were reminded of the infamous line from John 3 that the Son was sent into the world not to condemn it but to save it. This week, the picture is made even starker: in order to achieve the mission, Jesus must die.

Christians get this. Many of us look at the cross and give thanks that Jesus died there for our sins. And this is true. But it is an incomplete look at the picture. Yes, Jesus died for sin (not just mine or yours, but for everyone's), but he also died for something else: he died as a protest against the evil and corrupt ways of the world. He died standing up for the kingdom of God, where justice and peace hold sway. This latter part is often missed in our narrative of the suffering of Jesus.

The other readings help to bring this into focus for us, though. We read in Jeremiah of the suffering of God's people in exile and the promise of restoration. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read of the High Priest who has suffered because of his obedience, and through that suffering became the source of salvation for all who obey. (Note that the word used in Hebrews is 'obey', not 'believe'.) So, as we draw quickly towards the glorification of Christ, let us attend closely to the lesson of this week's readings. Jesus did not just come here to die for our sins. He came to show us the way. And that means that we also must be prepared to fall into the earth and die, to serve and to follow, to suffer, and to live.



## 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 22 March 2015**  
**Fifth 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 25 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 5 (starts p 41) and the commentary for chapter 5 (starts p 94).

**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 today.

**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**—next 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.

**Love in Action**—The next meeting is Mon 30 Mar at 7 p.m. at Gail Clement's.

**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.

**Parish Leadership Workshop**—offered by the diocese to clergy, wardens, and treasurers (not just new ones). Sat 25 Apr, Christ Church, Belleville. Time and other details to follow.

**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!

**Camp Hyanto**—Registrations are now open. Visit <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/camp-hyanto/> to register online. You can financially support Camp Hyanto in order to assist with the provision of Christian camp ministry to youth online (go to the website above and click on the tab that says "2015 PAG form").

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## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Maundy Thursday 2 April, 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a simple dish for potluck supper and a feast basket

Good Friday 3 April, 10:00 a.m.

Easter Day 5 April, 9:30 a.m.

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## PRAYERS THIS WEEK

### *Anglican Communion*

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
Diocese of Morogoro (Tanzania)  
The Rt. Rev'd Godfrey Sehaba

### *Diocese of Ontario*

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton  
Parish on the Trent  
The Rev'd Ada Rochford

### *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*

#### Greeters

Pray for the families of: Pam & Bob Detlor; Lorraine Elmy; John Eves; Bernard & Shirley Foley; Madeline Froman

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY 22 MARCH

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Mark 11:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Philippians 2:5-11

## **Stewardship Reflection**

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

Want God to honour you? "No problem," says Jesus. The faithful steward will be found wherever Jesus is. Care to join him?

## **Financial Report**

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,177</u>
Shortfall	\$1,282

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