

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

This is the week where we read of that unfortunate apostle who was christened "Doubting Thomas". In the evening of Easter day, when Jesus first appeared to the apostles in the upper room, Thomas was not there. When the others told him about Jesus, he did not believe them and said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side I will not believe." A week later, as we read, Jesus appeared again and responded to what Thomas had said the previous week, saying, "Do not doubt, but believe." Thomas made one of the first post-resurrection confessions then, answering, "My Lord and my God!" Over the years, this episode has been used to show how Thomas was of little faith because he refused to believe until he saw it.

One of the hymns this week shows the evolution of Thomas. We all know Jesus' response to Thomas—"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"—but we often forget that it was Thomas who prompted it by saying, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?". Thomas is keen and attentive. Yes, he ran away from the cross, but so did the others. Yes, he didn't believe right away that Jesus had visited on Easter night, but he came around. And, after a time, his faith grew and he became rather an influential apostle. So, Thomas gets a bad rap for being the doubter, but I think it is much more important that we remember him as an earnest disciple who eagerly learned and grew in his faith. In other words, Thomas is really quite a good model for us to follow even today.

I was reminded of this recently when we held our Palm Sunday lunch. I was disappointed in the turnout, especially because I know how much work went into planning the event and making all of the food. But, besides the wonderful teamwork we displayed that day, there was another element of the event that I found very pleasantly surprising. There were two young people, students at Quinte Mohawk School, who helped serve. They were polite, eager to serve, quick to learn, and very capable. When it was clear that we weren't going to have hordes of people streaming through the doors until 3:00, they were told that they could go home early if they wished. Immediately, they replied they would stay the whole time and do whatever was needed. When I thanked them for their work, I was told, without hesitation, that it was fun and that they would definitely come back again if asked.

Quite frankly, I was blown away. Hanging out with a mostly older crowd on a pleasant Sunday afternoon is not something I would expect two twelve-year-olds to do, let alone willingly. I know how the church is often negatively seen in this community and there are those who wish we'd disappear, I am aware that many young people are not being exposed to the church and, when they are, it is usually in the form of criticism. Yet, here were these two young people working in our midst, enjoying themselves, and saying they would come back.

This is the result of the relationships that are being built through our literacy ministry at the school. Our parishioners are becoming friends with students and the staff are becoming comfortable having church people around. I confess that I have had my doubts over the past few years that we will be able to find a way to attract young people back to church because of community dynamics and the absence of our own families. But, I had an "upper room" room experience where I felt like there was something new and exciting happening at that lunch with those two kids. If we keep working hard at building and strengthening these kinds of relationships in our community, there is yet hope that we will bring our youth back. That is a real story of resurrection, and I can see it and believe it.



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 12 April 2015
The Second Sunday of Easter

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

1295 Ridge Rd
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
962-2787
parish@parishoftyendinaga.org

Website: <http://www.parishoftyendinaga.org>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tyendinagaanglican

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

Love in Action Theatre Night—*Murder in Bloom*, a mystery comedy at the Lennox Community Theatre, 2219 Cty Rd 11, Selby. Wed 22 Apr, 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:45) Tickets \$18, available from Love in Action members. "What could be more harmless than a ladies' garden club in a small English village? That's what they thought in sleepy, uneventful St. Basil-on-Green, until one day the richest lady in town is mysteriously murdered during a club meeting! As the police come onto the scene, we realize that this is more than a mere garden club and that more is at stake than begonias. And who among these harmless ladies would be capable of murder? The gripping ending tells all, with plenty of chills, laughs and poignant moments along the way."

Friendly Manor Service—The next ministry team visit for the Friendly Manor is Thu 23 Apr at 10:30 a.m. In winter weather, please bring indoor footwear.

Parish Leadership Workshop—offered by the diocese to all clergy, wardens, and treasurers. Sat 25 Apr, Christ Church, Belleville, 9:00-3:00. Brown bag lunch. Morning plenary sessions will be followed by an afternoon workshop in one of 3 streams (Mission, Stewardship, Safe Church). An agenda is posted on the bulletin board. To register, please visit <http://form.jotform.ca/form/50896471281260> or speak to Brad.

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 3 May.

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. 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").

Diocesan Love in Action Appeal—This year, Love in Action Sunday is 3 May. Please support the Diocese of Ontario's Love in Action campaign which is a joint appeal between the Diocese of Ontario Foundation and the Anglican Appeal. Supporters will receive their 2015 mailing by May 15 and are asked to contribute to Love in Action. Parishes are asked to support Love in Action on Sun 3 May.

Bishop's Dinner—Mon 8 Jun at the Four Points Sheraton, Kingston. Guest speaker journalist and author Lawrence Scanlan wrote *A Year of Living Generously* - a book about compassion that chronicles his 12 months of volunteering with 12 different charities, among them Habitat for Humanity, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Canadian Crossroads. More info to follow.

...

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Parish of Nandyal (South India)
The Rt. Revd Eggoni Pushpalalitha

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
Parish of Roslin—Marlbank
The Rev. Nancy Beale

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

Lay Delegates to Synod

Pray for the families of: Sandra, Justin, Murney & Terra Green;
Kaleena & Brian Hanoski; Marian Hearn; Beverly Hill; Bobbie & Vernon Hill

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 19 APRIL

Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7

Psalm 4
Luke 24:36b-48

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

"I came so that they can have life and have it to the full," says Jesus earlier in John's gospel. Today we hear that these are written so that "you will come to believe . . . and . . . have life in his name." A faithful steward shows this full life by the way they live out their daily lives. As they say: "There's no life

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$2,755</u>
Excess	\$ 296

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