

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

"Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." These words encompass Jesus' response to the reaction of the crowd in Nazareth when they see what he's been up to and marvel at it, wondering how he can do it. After all, they say, was he not known to them as the son of Mary and Joseph?

Let's recap the events we've been talking about in the Gospel readings for the past couple of weeks. First, Jesus stilled the wind and waves on the Sea of Galilee. Then, he drove the demons out of the Gerasene demoniac into a herd of swine. He revived the dead daughter of Jairus and healed the woman who had been haemorrhaging for twelve years. In this week's Gospel, we find Jesus in his hometown of Nazareth, where he stands in the synagogue and teaches.

The crowd had witnessed or heard about the miraculous deeds of Jesus and recognised in them that he was acting not only with the authority of a king but with God's authority. He had demonstrated his power over the natural elements and over the spiritual realm and they were impressed. But the crowd is confused. Yes, they acknowledged, Jesus was doing things that required divine authority. But, they said, we know him. He's Jesus: he can't possibly wield God's power.

Jesus replies with the line I started with. We have a modern version: "familiarity breeds contempt". When we become too familiar with something or someone, we often lose our respect for it. When we think we know something, it becomes hard for us to see when that thing changes because we've fossilised our understanding of it.

This passage in the Gospel of Mark is a warning to Mark's readers that we should never get too comfortable in what we think is our knowledge of who God is and what God is up to. Like the disciples, who often act as the evangelists' foils by being obtuse, the crowd in this passage are unable to get past their assumptions about Jesus to see what is true. They understand that he is doing marvellous things, but because they think they know who he is and where he comes from (i.e. that he is Joseph's son and not God's), they are unable to recognise in his deeds the authority that he has from God.

Let's reflect on the following thoughts from theologian Mark Edington: This unbelief is not merely a passive obstacle but an active problem, misleading them into believing that Jesus' unique relationship with God is actually a danger to the health of their own confidently religious belief; he is not merely ignored but, to their peril, rejected.

The theological assertion beneath this vignette is uncomfortable, but plain: the human capacity for investing in social norms, for believing in one's own preferences, is *greater than the human capacity for faith*. In Mark's Gospel, the person who acts beyond social norms through faith in God is rare. No socially constructed categories serve predictably: they may be rich and powerful (Jairus), poor and marginalised (the haemorrhaging woman), or acting selflessly on behalf of others (the paralytic's friends). Even the demons that afflict the Gerasene are quicker in their own faith than Jesus' neighbours: immediately they acknowledge his kingly authority. The evil spirits are not bound by the social conventions that blind Jesus' own people—and us."

The second half of the story tells us how Jesus responds to those who do have faith, but I'm out of room here! So here's a question to ponder: will you, like Jesus, be able to lay aside social conventions in order to show absolute faith?



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 5 July 2015
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith
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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 2 Aug.

Strawberry Social—Today, 1-4 p.m. at the Mohawk Community Centre. Freewill offering. Entertainment and a children's craft corner will be provided.

Parish Council Meeting—Parish Council will meet on Wed 8 Jul at 7 p.m. at the QAPC. Material will be provided next Sun 5 Jul. All parishioners are welcome to attend meetings in order to be familiar with or provide input to matters of parish governance.

Special Meeting of Vestry—As discussed at the annual meeting in February, a special meeting to review the budget position halfway through the year will be held after worship on Sun 12 Jul.

'Bible Blast to the Past' Vacation Bible School—20-24 Jul, St Mary Magdalene's, 137 Robinson St, Napanee. 9 a.m. to noon, ages 4 to 11. Cost \$25/child or \$50 per family. For more info, call Kristal at 613-354-3141 or see the poster on the bulletin board in the hall.

Parish Picnic—our annual outdoor worship and picnic will be on Sun 16 Aug. Location to be confirmed. Please bring a potluck dish to share, a chair, and your feast basket with utensils, cups, plate etc.

Amsterdam Trip—Our visit to St Ann's will take place 18-20 Sep. More to follow.

Diocesan Budget Input—If you are interested in the development of the diocesan budget and/or would like some input into it, please visit the diocesan website for more information: <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/diocese-of-ontario-2016-budget-development/>. We all have a vested interest in the budget because it is funded for the most part by our assessment through Common Ministry and Mission.

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!

The Mohawk Guild— The Mohawk Guild is a longstanding organization that is committed to the service of our community. The Guild meets at the Parish Hall (1295 Ridge Road) on the last Wed of the month at 7 p.m. Please join us in our efforts. For more information, please call Bev Hill (613-962-5183) or Shirley Maracle (613-962-6137).

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Diocese of Ogo (Ibadan, Nigeria)
The Rt. Revd Williams Oluwarotimi

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
Christ Church, Belleville
The Revd Mike Rice
The Revd Kate Ann Follwell

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

Fellowship & Refreshment Hosts
Pray for the families of: Carol Thomas; Marion Thomas; Mary Tomkins;
Cheryl Tugnette; Cathie Vick

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 12 JULY

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalm 24
Mark 6:14-29

Stewardship Reflection

"They set out and announced that people should turn their lives around."
We can't expect others to turn their lives around, unless ours is too. Have you allowed yours to be?

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,490</u>
Shortage	\$ 969

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: