

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

There might have been one or two times when I was a kid that I was threatened with having my head served on a platter if I didn't do some chore or another. I thought it a strange saying until I figured out what it meant and discovered that the saying was not original to my mother but was, in fact, to be found in Scripture!

The story is not so much about Jesus this week as it is about his slightly older cousin John the Baptist. We know John well. In Luke's Gospel, the first two chapters alternate between the announcements of the births of John and Jesus. In all of the Gospels, John goes around as a herald of Jesus' birth and is the weird guy who roamed the desert calling people to repentance while clothed in camel's hair and eating locusts and honey. The story begins with a subtle reference to the crowds who were beginning to clamour about Jesus' powers. They were not quite sure who he was or from where he got his power. So, like people are wont to do, they speculated. Some thought he was John the Baptist, others thought Elijah. Herod himself thought that Jesus was likely John the Baptist, whom he had beheaded, raised back to life.

Cue the flashback: we are in Herod's court before Jesus came on the scene. John the Baptist is going around preaching and proclaiming. John had gotten on the wrong side of Herod's wife, who was the widow of his brother. There are complicated legalisms involved here in Jewish culture, but suffice it to say that John disapproved of Herod having married Herodias. Herodias was not impressed and she held a grudge. Herod was caught in the middle, however, between keeping his wife happy and trying to live a righteous life after the example that he saw in John the Baptist. For the most part, he was able to keep his wife at bay and, although history remembers him as a weak king (he was the son of Herod the Great, who was king when Jesus was born), he did try to do the right thing. He listened to and respected John the Baptist and, as we are told, he protected him.

At the feast in the story, however, he makes a foolish promise to Salome, his daughter, that he will give her anything, up to half of the kingdom. Salome runs to her mother, who tells her to ask for John's head. Herod, now in an intractable situation, must deliver, even though it is clear that he would rather not. Thus, John the Baptist was killed—because a weak man was unable to do what he knew was right in the face of human sinfulness. As in birth, John's death gives us a foretaste of Jesus' death: at the hands of a weak king who does what is expedient rather than what is right.

Carrying on the theme from last week, where we looked at our predilection towards satisfying our own preferences rather than acting out of faith and submission to God's will, the Gospel this week challenges us yet again. There are prophets like John the Baptist among us and we may even listen to and want to heed them. But there are also Herodias among us who pressure us into acting against our best interests and God's hopes for the world. Almost daily, do we not find ourselves in the position of Herod, who must choose between doing what is right and giving in to various worldly pressures? Mark intends for us to hear this passage as a call to make our life decisions based on the principles of our faith, on what is right. He warns us that when we, like Herod, make decisions in bad faith, because it's easier or makes us look better, then we too risk being "deeply grieved." So let us pray for the faith and courage to do what is right and faithful, whatever the cost. Let us be like John the Baptist, even if it means having our heads on a platter.



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 July 2015
Seventh 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—Thank you to Deb Vincent for taking the lead on the event and to everyone who helped with preparing and serving food, setting and cleaning up, selling tickets, etc. The total raised was \$2,174!

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 today.

'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 on the east side of All Saints' Churchyard. 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. A block of rooms has been set aside for us in nearby Johnstown at USD106 (approx. CAD135) per night. Please sign up on the sheet being circulated if you plan to attend. If you need a ride, there will be car pooling available: please check the box on the sign-up sheet if you need a ride.

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 Peru
The Rt. Revd Dr. Harold William Godfrey
Suffragan Bishop of Peru
The Rt. Revd Michael Alexander Chapman

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
St. Thomas' & St. Paul's, Belleville
The Revd Brad 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

Gardeners

Pray for the families of: Debra, Thomas, Charles & Matthew Vincent;
Tasha, Robert & Charlotte Wallace; Dave & Lynn Wilson;
June Woodman; Clarence Ziemann

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 19 JULY

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Ephesians 2:11-22

Psalm 89:20-37
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Stewardship Reflection

What can a steward learn from this story? Maybe not to act or speak too quickly, but to allow the Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions.

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$2,031</u>
Shortage	\$ 428

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