

# THE LYCHGATE

## March 21, 2021

Parish Newsletter of

The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields



### From Father Philip

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Which verses of scripture have been important to you in your journey of faith? This is one of the questions with which the Wednesday evening group has been grappling through this season of Lent. How would you answer that question? I know that as I reflected on it, I came up with a number of passages. The psalms are so evocative for me. I think of a verse such as that from Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God." This has been a constant encouragement to me to silence and prayer, to resting in the presence of the Lord, putting my trust and confidence in the power of the living God. Or there is that verse from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." For me, these are the marks of the Christian life: prayer, joy, and gratitude. It is not always easy to live into them but this verse is a constant encouragement to me to live into my baptismal promises and to share the joy and life of Christ.

Then, of course, there are those scriptural verses which make up the Passion Narrative, the account of Jesus' arrest, trial, and execution. Jesus' words from the Cross I find particularly powerful. "Forgive them for they know not what they do" are words that bring great comfort in knowing the amazing mercy and love of God, but also are a continuing challenge as I am called to show that same kind of forgiveness and mercy in my own life. Similarly, there are those two short words spoken by Jesus in the midst of his agony on the Cross, "I thirst". It is the starkness of this cry, the sense of utter vulnerability and need, Christ's complete identification with human suffering, that stands out for me. But also, I hear in those two simple words Christ's deep longing for each one of us, that we might quench his thirst as we come to him in faith, to give him our hearts and minds, to share our deepest desires and needs, as we offer up to him the sufferings of all of Creation.

Finally, there are those enigmatic words uttered by Jesus in John's Gospel as he hangs upon the Cross, spoken to his mother and the Beloved Disciple, standing near-by. To John, the Beloved Disciple, he says, "Behold your mother...", and to Mary he says, "Behold your son..." On one level, we could see this as a very human reaction, as a son's concern that his mother will be taken care of in that very patriarchal society when he is gone. And, indeed, there is an ancient tradition that John after Jesus' death did take Mary to live with him in his home in Asia Minor. In fact, I have visited the small chapel that is built on the spot above the Roman ruins of Ephesus where John's home is traditionally located. But I have always seen much more in these words that goes beyond a simple filial devotion. To me, they speak to Jesus' work of salvation as he was exalted, lifted up on the Cross to finally be raised up from the grave to sit at God's right hand in glory. They speak to Christ's work to satisfy our deepest needs, to know that we are not alone, that God wants us to be embraced in a relationship of love, to know that we are part of a great family founded upon the sacrificial love of Christ. They speak of the creation of the Church, that family that stretches through time and space, through which Christ's Spirit moves to nourish and sustain us, to guide us into the Kingdom of God.

These words have become particularly important to me in this time of pandemic when isolation and lonely suffering are the lot of so many. Jesus' action from the Cross speaks powerfully of God's desire to bring us together in Christ, that we might be there for each other, as we enjoy God's incredible embrace of love, patterning our lives on the actions of Mary and John who care for one another in the waves of loss and grief. Love for one another that flows out into love for God's world, that is to be the distinguishing mark of this new family, Christ's Church, Love for one another that overflows in love for the world, that is what we are called to share as members of St. Martin's, a small part of that great Easter family.

This Holy Week and Easter I look forward to returning once again to these words of Scripture that bring us closer to the source of all life and love. May all Christ's words and actions bring you closer to God this Easter, and may you know God's peace, joy, and mercy as we give thanks for our Crucified and Risen Lord.

Fr. Philip

## Church Directory



The Church of  
St. Martin-in-the-Fields

151 Glenlake Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

[www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)

Church: 416-767-7491  
Fax: 416-767-7065

### Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon Philip  
Hobson OG

### Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd Canon  
David Luxton  
The Rev'd James  
Decker  
The Rev'd Canon  
Harold Nahabedian  
The Rev'd Canon  
Alyson Barnett-Cowan  
The Rev'd Alison Hari-  
Singh  
The Rt. Rev'd Victoria  
Matthews

### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

### Church Wardens:

Tim Stephenson  
Eilonwy Morgan

### Secretary:

Margaret Allen

### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

**About The Lychgate Newsletter:** *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the editor, Ian Greene, at [iangreene0766@rogers.com](mailto:iangreene0766@rogers.com). For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.

**NOTE:** You can opt to go paperless and in future receive it only by email after the church re-opens, by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at [Lychgate1111@gmail.com](mailto:Lychgate1111@gmail.com).

Since December 13, 2020,  
from the Parish Registers:  
Weddings, Baptisms and  
Funerals: None

## Holy Week and Easter

**Services Live-Streamed on St. Martin's YouTube Channel** (please use the link on the parish's web site):

▪ **Sunday, March 28**, Palm/Passion Sunday, 11:00 a.m. (Blessing of Palms & Eucharist)

*Blessed palm crosses may be picked up from the church at subsequent Holy Week and Easter services or by contacting Fr. Philip at [phobson@stmartininthefields.ca](mailto:phobson@stmartininthefields.ca) or at 416-767-7491.*

▪ **Thursday, April 1**, Maundy Thursday, 8 p.m. (Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, and the Watch)

▪ **Friday, April 2**, Good Friday, 1 p.m. (Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday)

▪ **Saturday, April 3**, Easter Eve, 8 p.m. (Easter Vigil)

▪ **Sunday, April 4**, Easter Day, 11:00 a.m. (Eucharist)

**Service available on Video through the Web Site** Stations of the Cross:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYMmD69iVbs>

**In-person services** (in order to attend, please go to the parish's web site for the link to pre-register on Eventbrite or phone Judith Kidd at 416-480-2680 starting March 23rd)

▪ **Tuesday, March 30**, 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

*(Please note that because of the pandemic health and safety restrictions the congregation will remain in their pews and only the Officiant will move around the church during the Stations.)*

▪ **Sunday, April 4**, Easter Day, 8:30 a.m. Eucharist

▪ **Monday, April 5**, Easter Monday, 11:00 a.m. Eucharist

▪ **Tuesday, April 6**, Easter Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Eucharist

## Hot Cross Buns & Marmalade

By The Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is organizing a sale to support Water First (<https://waterfirst.ngo/>), whose work helps address water challenges in Indigenous communities in Canada through education, training, and meaningful collaboration.

Between March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, you can place orders by contacting Adrienne Beecker at [abeecker@gmail.com](mailto:abeecker@gmail.com) or by phone from 8 to 10 am, or 5 to 8 pm at 416-231-3014.

Pickup is 10 am to noon on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Holy Saturday) outdoors at the church. Items available are:

- Hot Cross Buns, homemade by Tim Stephenson: 5 for \$6.
- Seville Orange Marmalade - made by Lee Jeffrey: 250 ml jar for \$7
- Homemade lip balm: 10 ml tin for \$7
- Small (approximately 7") kid-safe bunny made from recycled wool sweaters, various colours: \$20. Please send inquiries to Adrienne Beecker as noted above.
- Knitted hat (one only), 100% cotton, slouch style, grey ribbing and mixed blue, orange, purple and other colours in the body: \$20

Payment by e-transfer can be made to [cw-stmartininthefields@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:cw-stmartininthefields@toronto.anglican.ca), with "Outreach Sale" in the comment line, or else please bring exact cash to the church on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (10 to noon).

Please order early – quantities are Limited.

## Wednesday Evening Series

By Mary Conliffe

With signs of spring all around us, and our garden being a well-loved part of our parish community, our Wednesday Night Christian Education Series over Zoom during the Easter Season will be on the topic of "Gardens," both those found in the Bible and those that we enjoy in our own neighbourhoods and backyards. Hopefully we will be able to gather in person – COVID and weather permitting – in our own parish garden at St Martin's for the last session.

Please save these dates in your calendars. Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions are over Zoom at 8 pm.

## Garden Series

Week 1> *The Gardens of the Gospels*: - Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - with Fr Philip

Week 2> *The Garden in Genesis*: - Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - speaker to be confirmed

Week 3> *The Garden in Revelation*: - Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - with Joe Mangina

Week 4> *Community Gardens*: - Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> - with Elin Goulden and another speaker to be confirmed

Week 5> *St Martin's Garden*: - Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> in the GARDEN if possible (otherwise, on Zoom) - with Ingrid Whittaker and Patty McKnight

Each session will conclude with a service of Compline, led by Fr Philip.

Please join us! Zoom coordinates will be sent closer to the dates.



Photo courtesy David McKnight

## FaithWorks 2021

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By Judith Kidd

First, I would like to thank you for your very successful 2020 FaithWorks campaign. Each of you who participated in the campaign made it the most successful in the parish's history and contributed to making it the most successful diocesan campaign. Despite the circumstances for the year and the absence of almost all the usual activities associated with previous FaithWork campaigns, you saw the need and acted. Thank you very, very much. And now the campaign for the 2021 FaithWorks has started. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving material to highlight the need for new funding. The material will have information about how to contribute and what happens to the funds that you donate. As you may recall, 15 per cent of the funds that you donate comes back to the parish and, through the Outreach Committee, those monies are distributed to local partners such as Romero House or PARC.

The remaining 85 per cent of your gift is distributed to the Ministry Partners of FaithWorks. These Ministry Partners provide help and hope to thousands of individuals and families who are vulnerable and marginalized. Your gift also helps to support aid efforts in the developing world and in remote communities throughout Canada's far north. Thank you again to all who made the 2020 so successful and a request, to those who are able, to consider a contribution to this important work of the diocese.

## Parish Profile: Nico Cassidy

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By David McKnight

Maybe some people can go home again. When Nico Cassidy was born, her family lived in a house on Indian Road and, after travels to various parts of the world, she again lives in a house on Indian Road, though not the same one.

Nico grew up in the evangelical Anglican tradition attending Little Trinity Church. She was active in the youth group there and enjoyed summers at Pioneer Camp. While at University of Guelph studying psychology, she did a co-op placement at L'Arche



Gisele, Daniel, Louis and Nico

Stratford. It was a formative time being in a faith community that integrated different parts of life. It was a challenging but rich experience to live in such a community. When Nico was in third year university, her father was living in India and made connections for her to do a six-month placement at L'Arche Chennai, in Madras. It was another great time of learning.

Back in Toronto, now in her mid-20s, Nico studied in the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at the University of Toronto. She began to attend the Church of the Redeemer about the time that now Bishop Andrew Asbil began there. She was drawn by his pastoral care and by the sermons preached by the late Fr Stephen Reynolds. And the music moved her. She joined the choir and sang with them 14 years until work and having children made it hard to continue.

Fortunately, three years ago Nico attended the Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Martin's. She loved the music, the space, and the warm welcome that she received. In her youth, Nico had a favourite King's College Choir tape; at St. Martin's she felt like she was in it! She asked Jack Hattey if he needed more singers and, happily for all, he let her try. It was an added blessing that her children embraced and were embraced by the children's program. (Thanks, Grace.)

Being a social worker has taken Nico through a number of things: a crisis line and a centre for autism (families and children) were early experiences. Her real passion is working with older adults,



particularly facilitating group work and planning and managing programs. After doing additional courses in community development, Nico, while working at St. Clair West Services for Seniors, developed a centre for older adults who were well but needed community connection. It was a store-front operation that provided a place to go and something to do. Among the activities were exercise programs, discussion groups, and computer classes. It allowed sometimes isolated people to make connections and create social networks. In a diverse neighbourhood with multiple languages and cultures, the centre had appeal to all. Recently Nico has taken a step back from work to focus on care for her family.

Nico and her husband, Daniel, their children Gisele, 8, and Louis, 6 live in a multigenerational household with Nico's father and stepmother. Daniel is French-Canadian from the Montreal area so their children are fully bilingual and attend École Charles-Sauriol. There was great excitement on the day we spoke because two new guinea pigs, Carmela and Honey (or my furry friends as Louis calls them) had



**Carmela and Honey**

been welcomed to the family the night before.

Nico's faith journey, which started in childhood, has been developed by experiences like L'Arche and nurtured by her love of music in worship. She feels that in St. Martin's she has found a comfortable and safe place. She likes the space and the ritual and ceremony — and of course the music — but also that it is not too stuffy. There is space for children; when her son burst through the Vestry door at communion time no one batted an eye. (She confesses that "wild" might be a fair description for both her children.)

*[Editor's note: of whose children is it not a fair*

*description?]* She is glad for the Messy Church program.

Nico admires the talent and commitment of the people she has met at St. Martin's, an active community that looks to involve the neighbourhood. She points to the garden, the Carol Sing, and the blessings of bikes and pets as meaningful opportunities for the parish to reach beyond the congregation and gather the community. She looks forward to working with Parish Council on plans for a drop-in for seniors. More than anything she looks forward to when we can gather again in the church building and join in song and praise together.

## **Christmas Market 2021**

By the Market Mavens – Roseann Barry, Lee Jeffrey and Kathie Wagg

This year, we have the luxury of being able to take some real time to plan our Christmas Market – unlike in 2020 when we had to switch gears very quickly and go virtual to enable us to do anything. This is a blessing, but also a bit of a curse. Who really wants to even think about the next cold season? We



**Nutcracker Fair 2019**

are so looking forward to the warmer weather, to getting inoculated, to seeing family and friends again, and to being able to worship together. But there is some planning going on and we want to keep you informed and give you the option of being able to do some personal planning and activities that will contribute to a banner year in 2021.

Where do we stand right now? Roseann Barry, Lee Jeffrey and Kathie Wagg will again be co-chairs of our event. Whether the event will be live or virtual or

a combination of both we cannot say at this point. However, if it is in-person, it will take place on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and if it is totally virtual, it will be the week of November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 3. If it is a combination of real and virtual, the same time frames will apply.

Now to content:

- We will have a silent auction with Susan Goddard at the helm.
- Christmas decor will be led by Lee Jeffrey with handicrafts, including needlecraft, being coordinated by Helen Kolberg.
- Kathie Wagg will continue to manage the bake sale.

There will be some new booths.

- Maggie Knight is leading “jewelry and accessories,” including quality jewelry, scarves (not knitted – that’s handicrafts), hats, and handbags/purses.
- Roseann Barry will lead a totally new booth: “Put A Lid On It.” More about that later.
- Gayne Brawn will manage the surprise packages as part of children’s corner, which will be led by Nico Cassidy.
- Clara’s Café is without a lead presently, as are “communications and logistics.”

If we have to go totally virtual, we will not have a Café, our Children’s Corner will be somewhat different, and logistics will be much simpler – no stalls to build or decorations to put up. Everything else should be able to go on-line, which will make this market quite a bit bigger than in 2020.

We are giving you all this information so early in the year so you can contribute better by accumulating good quality articles early in the year, and not have to scramble about right before the event. You will be able to approach the leads of each booth to make sure what you are collecting or making is appropriate for the booth.

Now, returning to “Put A Lid On It.” This new booth will include anything made of any material that can be reused and has a lid or some enclosure such as storage containers or boxes. They might already have something in them or be empty. Perhaps some cool reusable gift boxes or bags for

Christmas – or other gifts. Interesting trinket boxes? Something with a lid to cook with? Or maybe it comes in a box and is returned to the same box after using, like a game. Or maybe hand soap in a pretty container that can be reused for generic soap later. Lots of interesting possibilities.

What else could you do to help? As mentioned earlier, you could make or collect items for any booth. Also, we will definitely be looking for more volunteers to help at any in-person event. You could approach any one of us at any time and express your willingness to help, even if you have not been involved in this before. Our contact information is as follows:

- Roseann Barry [roseannbarry336@gmail.com](mailto:roseannbarry336@gmail.com)  
1-905-570-6527
- Lee Jeffrey [lee hazel jeffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:lee hazel jeffrey@hotmail.com)  
1-416-762-0949
- Kathie Wagg [waggfamily@bell.net](mailto:waggfamily@bell.net)  
1-416-439-2171

Thanks to all the contributions of our Parish Family, our Christmas Market 2020 was a huge success. We have the opportunity to exceed those results and provide St. Martin’s with much needed resources that will allow us to expand our involvement with our local community – activities that will be much needed after the COVID threat has passed. And it gives us all the opportunity to socialize together, get to know each other better, and to have some fun at the same time. We look forward to hearing from you!

God Bless!



Photo courtesy David McKnight



## **Packing Up for Messy Church**

By Ian Greene

On the third Sunday of each Month, St. Martin's collaborates with the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, located at St. Clair and Wychwood, to provide the children in both parishes with an opportunity to get together via Zoom for an hour for "Messy Church."

Parents in each parish need to sign up their children to participate at least a week in advance (so we can pack the bags a few days in advance to make sure they are safe). St. Martin's and St. Michael's take turns "hosting" the Messy Church, which is an approach to worship developed in England beginning in 2004. For children, Messy Church involves making a craft while listening to a story, and then showing their craft, if they wish, via Zoom.

Our collaboration with St. Michael's was set up by Grace Karram Stephenson, working with Jenni King Feheley at St. Michael's, in the spring of 2020. Jenni is Lay Pastor, and Director of Community Building & Spiritual Engagement at St. Michael's. Today, March 21, there are 10 families from St. Martin's participating at 4 pm, and 11 from St. Michael's, meaning that about 30 children from both parishes will participate.

March was the turn of St. Martin's to host Messy Church. Nico Cassidy, Lee Jeffrey and I worked out an Easter theme (referring to Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter, *Messy Church: Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-Centered Community*), which presents plenty of ideas for crafts. We settled on an Easter Garden craft. Nico kindly purchased the craft materials and packed up the craft bags for the children. Ian and Nico delivered the craft bags to our 10 St. Martin's families during the past two days. The bags include a half coconut shell and garden soil to put into it. It will be indeed a "Messy Church," and I will show slides of our past Easter gardens at the back of the nave in St. Martin's.

The bags include not only craft materials, but also juice drinks and snacks for the children to consume during Messy Church, as well as additional items that parents might like to cook up for a family dinner later on.



**Messy Church bags ready for delivery, March 19**



**Spring is coming! Photo courtesy David McKnight**





**Looking forward to our Japanese Cherry Blossoms! Photo Courtesy Patty McKnight**



**Photo courtesy David McKnight**

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