

# THE LYCHGATE

June 4, 2023

Parish Newsletter of

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



## From Fr. Carefoote

As I stood by the window in the vestry this morning, some tentative sunshine suddenly broke through the unrelenting cloud of the last few days, and I was dazzled, for a few brief moments, by the cavalcade of colour down below. Tulips in their wide varieties waved back at me in the breeze, the last of the daffodils were still bravely turning towards the sun, a late-blooming magnolia was holding onto its pale pink petals, while the cherry blossoms looked on, just awaiting their turn to make the rest of the garden jealous. As is so very often the case, without my willing it, a tune came into my head, Sarah McLachlan's *Ordinary Miracle*. "The sky knows when it's time to snow, don't need to teach a seed to grow. It's just another ordinary miracle today." The spring garden has always been a miraculous thing to me, as nature comes back to life. It's not that winter doesn't have its own beauty, for it does, but it is a season that tends to paint its canvas in shades of grey. As the leaves on the trees now begin to turn from pale to dark green, however, we can take comfort in knowing that these few precious months of warmth and long days are all ahead of us, as is the season of Pentecost, which we are now entering.

In some parts of the Christian world, this long period between now and the first Sunday of Advent, which falls this year on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, is known by the rather prosaic title of "Ordinary Time". I used to think that name terribly dull, but it actually speaks volumes when you think about it. It is a reminder to us all that it is precisely in ordinary times that God's Spirit still works the greatest of miracles through very ordinary people. The Spirit clearly moves so many in this parish to work ordinary miracles every day on behalf of the lonely, shut-ins, our neighbours in need, and refugees struggling to adapt to their new circumstances, to name but a few. Sunday after Sunday, the Gospels we will now hear throughout this new season will focus our attention specifically on Jesus's teachings. By carefully listening to his words and putting them into action, we may well find that, by the end of this season of growth, we too may have produced the fruits of the Spirit which St. Paul tells us are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). Not a bad yield, when you think about it. Whether we are in the city, travelling, or at the cottage, there will be no shortage of opportunities to make this garden of ours grow.

St. Martin's is now entering into a new and exciting period in its long and vibrant history. Father Philip's legacy will leave a lasting imprint on the evolution of the parish as it moves into the future, something for which we are all grateful. I am sure that he would be the first to say that while his work here may be done, ours most certainly is not. It is my privilege to be able to accompany the people of this parish during this time of transition. Like so many priests of this diocese, my faith was also shaped by St. Martin's when I was a parishioner and chorister here in the 1990s, and I am so very happy to have the opportunity to give back to it. The fact that I still see so many familiar faces from twenty-five years ago bears witness to the commitment of those who have called St. Martin's their home for so very long. The fact that I see so many *new* faces here as well is testimony to the effect that inspiring liturgy, sound religious education, and good works done in Christ's name can have on building a strong faith community. No doubt, over these next few months, you will all be reflecting on the direction you wish to see St. Martin's move as you face the challenges of a post-pandemic church, and they are many. Pray, therefore, for your selection committee that the Spirit might enlighten them as they work on your behalf to find the person who will guide you into the promise of the future while respecting the traditions of your past.

In the long weeks of Pentecost that lie before us, let us try, both personally and as a parish, to make the most of the ordinary. While the Easter Season we are leaving behind cannot help but impress upon our hearts and minds the exceptional work of God who raised his Son from the dead, let us not forget that most of Jesus' ministry before that salvific act was spent in teaching, comforting, healing, and encouraging ordinary people in an ordinary country – acts of love that turned the ordinary into the extraordinary. Even in smallest things we do for others, may we be part of the ordinary miracle today.

Fr. PJ Carefoote

## 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

### Interim Priest in Charge:

The Rev'd Dr. Pearce  
James (PJ) Carefoote

### 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 Rt. Rev'd Victoria  
Matthews

### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

### Assistant Organist

Robert Hamilton

### Church Wardens:

Peter Chauvin  
Jay Haddad  
Nadine Barmania (Deputy)

### Office Administrator:

Andrea Zinn

### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

### Children and Youth Pastoral

Associate: Finn Keesmaat-Walsh  
(they/them)

## Upcoming Events

- **Thursdays June 8 & 22; July 6 & 20; August 3, 17 & 31** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Parish Walks starting from church garden
- **Sunday, June 11**, afternoon: Walkathon on Toronto Island
- **Saturday, June 17**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Neighbourhood Fun Fair
- **Sunday, July 2**, 11 a.m., and every Sunday July through August, children and youth craft table in church garden (inside in case of rain)
- **Sunday, September 10**, 11 a.m. first Sunday of fall season Church School
- **Sunday, September 10**, afternoon, parish picnic in church garden (more details will come in the bulletin)
- **Wednesdays, September 13, 20 & 27:** discussion of summer book club books (See article this issue. Details to appear in bulletin and by email.)

**NOTE:** You can opt to go paperless and in future receive it mostly by email by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at [Lychgate1111@gmail.com](mailto:Lychgate1111@gmail.com).

**About *The Lychgate* Newsletter:** *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the co-editors, Ian Greene and David McKnight, 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>.

### From the Parish Registers

Since March 26, 2023 (last *Lychgate*)

#### Baptisms:

**Julia Claire Dell'Erede**, daughter of Jordan and Stephanie Dell'Erede, baptized 16 April 2023

#### Funerals:

**Angela Scully**, 21 April 2023



Rogation Sunday May 14, 2023

## Parish Profile: Father PJ Carefoote

By David McKnight



Pearce James (PJ) Carefoote was born in East York and grew up in the east end of Toronto. He has two older sisters, one now living in Florida and the other by Lake Simcoe. They thought Pearce too old a name for a baby, so he became PJ at once and ever since. His father who lives in Scarborough was from an Irish

Anglican family, but not a churchgoing one. His mother, who died 30 years ago, was from an Irish Roman Catholic family who were more devout. PJ started at St. Joseph's School, then went to St. Michael's Choir School for grades 3 to 13 where he had a good education, both generally and musically. After a BA at St. Michael's College at U of T, he attended St. Augustine's Seminary for theology. St. Augustine's is in Scarborough but is part of the Toronto School of Theology and he took many courses downtown with students of other denominations. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1988.

Fr Carefoote's first parish was St. Mary's in Brampton where he was one of three priests ministering to a parish of 5,000 families (families, not individuals!), five grade schools, two high schools, and two prisons. He loved it.

He was there only two years when Cardinal Carter decided to send him back to university with a plan that he would return to teach church history at St. Augustine's. He studied at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, eventually defending a doctoral degree in 1996. His area of study was the transition from the ancient to the medieval church, around the time of St. Augustine.

But there were also problems. He began to have doubts about returning to teach in the Roman

Catholic church, potentially contributing to that church's approach to gay priests. When he asked Archbishop Ambrozic, Cardinal Carter's successor, for time to think and revealed his own sexuality, it was not well received. PJ left the active Roman Catholic priesthood in 1994.

He needed a job. He sang as a paid lead tenor at the Church of the Redeemer (Anglican) but continued to attend mass at St. Joan of Arc RC church. It was there that he met Kevin Kindellan, now his partner. However, PJ did not like the music at St. Joan of Arc and it was suggested that he try St. Martin-in-the-Fields, just up the street. He first came in about 1996, met Fr. Pritchard, and loved the music and the liturgy. Soon he asked Jack to join the choir and sang with them for many years.

PJ and Kevin occasionally visited other churches and attended the 9 am service at the St. James Cathedral. It was there in 2010 that PJ was received into the Anglican Church. His orders were reactivated in 2013 and he joined the cathedral clergy.

Back to 1994. Singing was not a full-time job, so PJ got a teaching degree and then a position at the Etobicoke School of the Arts, teaching voice, music history, general history, and world religions. Eventually, he was asked to consider taking on the school library. In preparation for that, he enrolled in the Master of Information program at U of T. One of his courses was in rare books and special collections. He was noticed and in 2001 was offered a job in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. It was an ideal job. It used his knowledge of history, theology, Latin, and Greek, and he was free on weekends! He was there 20 years and Head for the last five of those, retiring in December 2021.

On retirement from U of T, PJ asked for a parish close to home and was appointed honorary assistant at St. Olave's, the parish he lives in. He is still active academically, giving some lectures and interviews on one of his interests, censorship and banning of books.

A long path with many turns — and more university degrees than most — that brings Fr PJ Carefoote happily to be our interim priest at St. Martin's. We are pleased to welcome him back.



## The Parish Selection Committee Update

By Nadine Barmania

The Parish Selection Committee – the committee representing the parishioners to assist Bishop Robertson in the appointment of a new incumbent priest – has met with the Bishop Robertson, Archdeacon Palmer, and our diocesan appointed coaches. Our coaches appointed by the Bishop, Bill and Cathy Matthews, explained the process to us, and set the stage for our work.

Our next step is to prepare a parish profile to aid the search for a new incumbent. The parish profile is a description of the parish: our expression of the liturgy and music, the interests and work of our groups, and our buildings and gardens. We will be circulating surveys and hope to receive feedback and input from as many parishioners as possible. We will have further details about the survey in the coming weeks.

## Missional Update:

### What the Missional Team has been doing in our community recently

By Kathie Wagg for the Missional Team

*"It requires an outward focus, rather than inward. It calls us out of the building into the neighbourhood, and invites us to serve as Christ's hands and feet, and heart and mind."*

Fr. Andrew MacDonald

We experienced a very successful and enjoyable Blessing of Bicycles on May 14. Parishioners and community members brought their bikes for a safety check – and as a bonus had minor problems resolved

at no charge! We are very grateful to Ryan of The Bike Spa for his expertise and labour for all who came. Fr. Carefoote made sure all bicycles and riders received an appropriate blessing, and they then received a bell, a safety vest, and a hot dog! We appreciate all



who prayed for good weather for us — it was a great day as you can see from the photo.

Now we are planning our next event which is quickly approaching, our annual Neighbourhood Fun Fair on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please keep those prayers coming for more good weather. Plus, we really need your help to ensure that our neighbours have a great experience. It is so important to have members of our parish family available to converse with our guests. To volunteer to help, please contact either Lexi Brennan at [akbrennan@protonmail.com](mailto:akbrennan@protonmail.com) or Glen Storey at [storeybook25@gmail.com](mailto:storeybook25@gmail.com).

The Team continues to regularly care for the Blessing Box, but we depend on YOU to provide contents for those in our community who need non-perishable food as well as personal and household supplies. Please keep these needs in mind as you do your regular grocery shopping. You can put your donations directly into the Blessing Box or into the box in the narthex as you enter the church. Those of you travelling soon, please remember to bring the complimentary personal supplies that you don't use from your hotels. These are a great size for the Box. Remember also books for the little libraries, especially books for children. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Finally, we are also facilitating pickleball on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. We are seeing new people from the community joining us each week. We welcome experienced and new players alike – the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming. At the end of June, we will stop playing for the summer.

The Team sincerely thanks all of our parish family who regularly support our activities. Without that support, we would not be able to do what we do. THANK YOU!

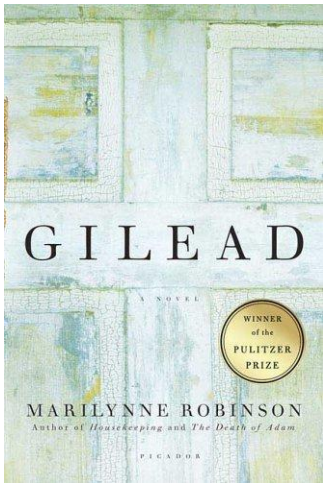
## St. Martin's Summer Book Club

By Philip Snider and Mary Conliffe

The Christian Education Committee is going on hiatus for the next three months. There will be no Wednesday evening Zoom sessions in June, July, and August. Instead, why not pick up one of our Summer

Book Club reads, and join us when we resume in September to discuss them?

We are recommending two picks for Summer 2023:



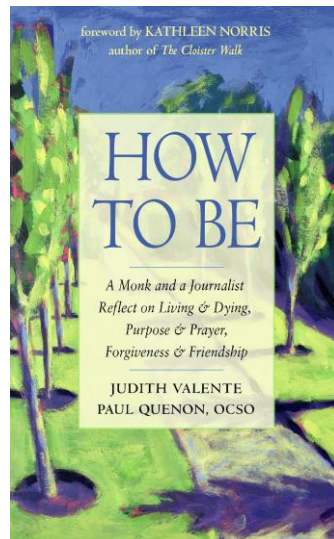
▪ ***Gilead***, a novel by Marilynne Robinson, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2005 and was one of “Oprah’s Book Picks” in 2021. Set in the 1950s, it tells the story of an elderly clergyman, looking back on a long life of love and loss, faith and hope.

▪ ***How to Be: A Monk and a Journalist Reflect on***

***Living & Dying, Purpose & Prayer, Forgiveness & Friendship***, a book in the form of a series of letters between Judith Valente, a well-known journalist and writer on spiritual topics, and Brother Paul Quenon, a monk of the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani, in Kentucky. The book explores how one follows a spiritual path today.

Although living two very different ways of life, Valente and Quenon’s conversation reveals how we can find God in the everyday struggles we all share, no matter our different ways of life.

Both of these books are widely available from your favourite bookstore or the Toronto Public Library.



Happy summer! Happy reading!

## Introducing myself as Children and Youth Pastoral Associate

By Finn Keesmaat-Walsh

My name is Finn Keesmaat-Walsh, and my pronouns are they/them. I joined St. Martin's as Children and Youth Pastoral Associate on May 1 and I have been blown away by the warm welcome you have all given me. Thank you so much.



I am a graduate of the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program through the Diocese of Toronto and have over ten years of experience working with youth and children, the last five in church contexts. I am also a past member of Diocesan Council for the Diocese of Toronto and have been a member of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada since 2019. For the last four years I have sat on the Council of General Synod and the Faith Worship and Ministry coordinating committee of the national church.

I was homeschooled and have a grounding in biblical studies through courses in the Creation Care Studies Program in Belize, the Outtatown Discipleship School through Canadian Mennonite University, lay education courses taught by the Biblical Scholar in Residence at St. James Anglican Church in Fenelon Falls, and through the online educational community Bible Remixed, where I have provided technical support for the last three years. Being raised by two biblical theologians, Brian Walsh and Sylvia Keesmaat, has meant that the biblical story has been alive in the conversations of our home, and in the family choices that have shaped me.

Outside of my work and volunteer time in the church, I am passionate about advocacy, especially for the 2SLGBTQ+ community and the disabled community. I also look after my ten-year-old neighbour after school every day and spend most of





**Finn training as aerialist**

my afternoons at the park. In my downtime, I can often be found relaxing with a cat on my lap, singing the soundtracks of musicals, or training as an aerialist.

I am passionate about making the biblical story come alive for children and youth and helping them learn what it looks like to more deeply love God, their neighbours, and all of creation.

## **FaithWorks and the**

## **Walkathon**

By Judith Kidd

As many of you already know, the 2023 St. Martin-in-the-Fields Walkathon for FaithWorks will be held Sunday, June 11. This short note is to encourage any who might be hesitant to participate to join those who know how rewarding and fun, yes fun, this event can be.



**Walking Around High Park**

our diocese were fed, sheltered, nurtured, and befriended by the FaithWorks partners. You may recall that 15% of the funds that those walking raise stays within the parish for our local partners such as

It's rewarding for a number of reasons – first to provide funds that will be distributed to the sixteen FaithWorks partners who last year served 27,000 people. We continue to hear of the food insecurity that so many, including some of our neighbours, are coping with: 17,746 people in

Romero House, The Redwood, Feed it Forward, and PARC.

Taking part in the Walkathon is also rewarding because it is an event that everyone in the parish can participate in – either walking the 5 km. from Hanlan's Point to Ward's Island, walking part of the route, or showing support by joining the walkers for the church service at St. Andrew by-the-Lake, and picnic. As well, everyone who is able can sponsor one or more of the walkers. It's a wonderful example of community fellowship.



**Walking Around Camp Nokomis**



**St. Andrew by-the-Lake, Toronto Island**

because of COVID. The same spirit was present, as you can see from these photos. Think about joining us on June 11!

While the Walkathon has been taking place annually since 2005, most years on Toronto Island, in the past few years we've had the opportunity to explore other sites: in 2017, because of flooding on the Island, and in 2020

## **Update On the Refugee Sponsorship of Tariq A. and His Family**

By Andrew Everton, Chair, Refugee Support Group

As previously reported in *The Lychgate*, St. Martin's and AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) have entered into a co-sponsorship agreement to bring Tariq A. (not his real name) and his family to Canada with financial and on-the-ground support from the Canadian charity Books Over Borders.

After safely leaving Afghanistan in February, the family has settled in Islamabad, Pakistan. We are pleased to report that at the time of writing, the family is scheduled for an interview with the High Commission of Canada in Islamabad. AURA will be

providing assistance to help them prepare for the interview.

After interviews, the next step is to have security checks and exit visas secured. There is also a possibility that the family could be required to have medical follow-ups. While there are no set timelines for these processes, the applications are moving forward relatively quickly because the family's applications are under the Canadian government's special program for Afghan refugees.

You may recall that Tariq worked with the Canadian charity Books Over Borders to promote literacy and education throughout Afghanistan. Following the handover of power to the Taliban, Tariq's safe well-being could no longer be guaranteed. Unfortunately, this harsh reality has impacted his family. One of his brothers was recently detained by the Taliban for continuing to advocate for girls' education. Tariq is working diligently to secure his brother's safe release.

The sponsorship group is turning its attention to raising the minimum funds required to support the family during their first year in Canada. The target is \$75,000, of which \$55,000 has been secured.

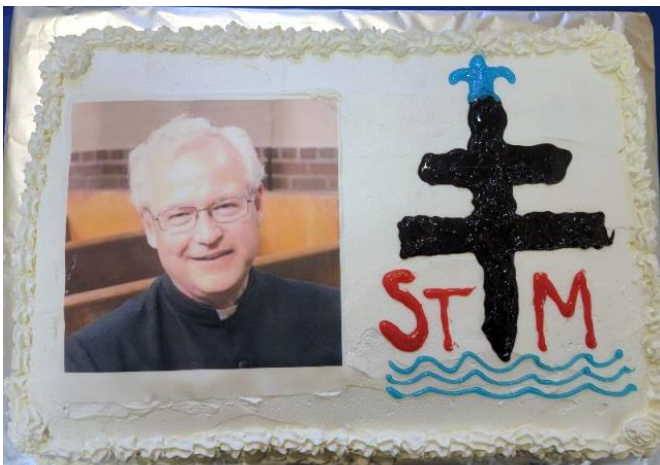
Upcoming issues of *The Lychgate* and church bulletins will provide further updates.



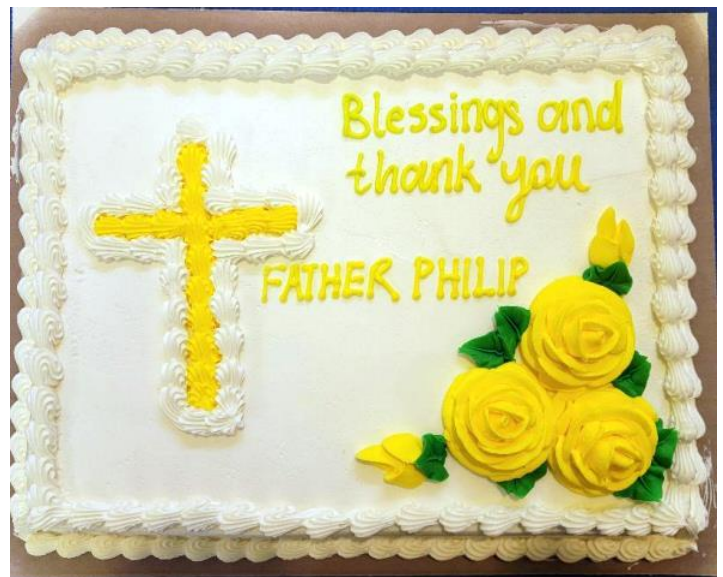
**Fr. Philip addressing parishioners April 23**

## **Celebrating Fr. Philip**

**April 23, 2023: Fr. Philip's Last Sunday at St. Martin's before retirement**



**A Cake**



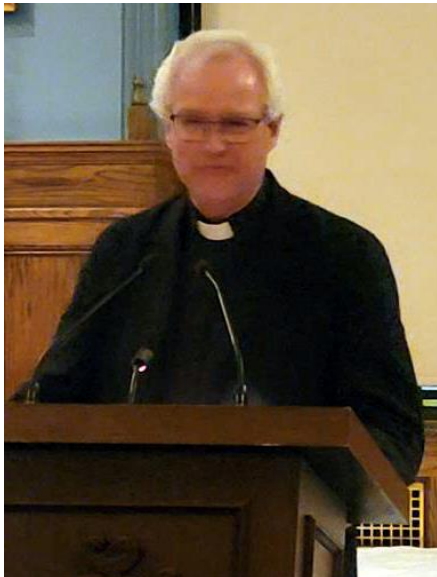
**Another Cake**





**Choir Celebrating Fr. Philip April 23**

### **May 12 Celebration at Albany Club**



**Fr. Philip addressing crowd of 110 well wishers May 12**



**May 12 cake**



**Crowd of well wishers May 12**

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