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# THE LYCHGATE

## March 22, 2026



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

### Rector's Message

In just a few days, on March 25, the church celebrates the Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This high feast day recalls the visit of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary that she will conceive and bear a son named Jesus. He says to her, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32).

It might seem strange that this feast day should occur in the middle of Lent, when the church year is especially modest and sparse, but it is of course exactly nine months until we celebrate our Lord's birth on December 25. This feast reminds us that even in the wilderness, when God seems most absent, we are not forgotten: God is at work sowing seeds of love and grace in our lives.

It's no coincidence that for centuries, up until 1752, the new calendar year began on March 25 rather than January 1. It was a nod to the new life and new beginnings that come us through life with Jesus Christ our Lord. Mary knew this first-hand, and her response to this divine gift and call to serve was full of faith and courage: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

What seeds of grace and love are being planted in your life and in the life of our parish, right now? Praise God, our parish is growing with new people coming to us almost every Sunday; we have celebrated numerous baptisms over the past year; we regularly fill the chapel at the Holy Eucharist on Tuesday mornings; and many are looking to deepen their devotional lives and to find new ways to serve God and neighbour in this place. Praise God for his grace and work in our midst.

May we have the faith to respond as courageously as Mary did to our own calls to serve.

Fr. Nicholas Hatt+  
Incumbent

## 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

#### Incumbent:

Fr. Nicholas Hatt

#### Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd Canon

Alyson Barnett-  
Cowan

The Rev'd Canon David

Luxton

The Rev'd James

Decker

The Rev'd Michelle

Childs-Ward

The Rt. Rev'd Victoria

Matthews

#### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

#### Church Wardens:

David McKnight

Phil Snider

Jenny Formanek (Deputy)

#### Office Administrator:

Shukura Alleyne

#### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

#### Pastoral Associate for Children's and Youth Ministry:

Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (they/them)

#### Sexton:

Bernard Sanders

**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 [office@stmartininthefields.ca](mailto:office@stmartininthefields.ca). For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.

### From the Parish Registers

Since December 14, 2025 (last *Lychgate*)

#### Baptisms:

▪ Mauricio Ramos-Cortes – December 26, 2025

▪ Beck Mather-Billany, Vann Mather-Billany,  
Madeleine MacFarlane, William MacFarlane –  
January 18, 2026

**Weddings:** None

**Funerals:** None

## Holy Week and Easter

*Services Live-Streamed have an asterisk [\*]*

*(Please use the link on the parish's web site)*

- **Sunday, March 29, Palm/Passion Sunday,**  
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist (choral)\*
- **Monday in Holy Week, March 30,**  
9 a.m. Matins; 10 a.m. Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- **Tuesday in Holy Week, March 31,**  
9 a.m. Matins; 10 a.m. Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- **Wednesday in Holy Week, April 1,** 9 a.m. Matins; 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- **Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday,** 8 p.m. Holy Eucharist (choral), Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altar;\* 9:30 p.m. Vigil at the Garden of Repose
- **Friday, April 3, Good Friday,**  
10 a.m. Children's Service; 1 p.m. Solemn Liturgy (choral) with Veneration of the Cross\*
- **Saturday, April 4, Holy Saturday,**  
8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil\* followed by Resurrection Party
- **Sunday, April 5, Easter Day,**  
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist (choral)\*
- **Monday, April 6, Easter Monday,**  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- **Tuesday, April 7, Easter Tuesday,**  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday, March 25,** 8 p.m.: Christian Education Series, Almsgiving
- **Wednesday, April 15,** 8 p.m.: Christian Education Series, Friendship in the Scriptures
- **Saturday, April 18,** 8 p.m.: Healy Willan Singers presenting Women and Songs VI
- **Sunday, April 19, Easter III:** Outreach Luncheon and Faithworks Launch after the 11 a.m. worship.
- **Wednesday, April 22,** 8 p.m.: Christian Education Series, Friendship in the Scriptures
- **Saturday, April 25,** 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Kids' clothing swap
- **Wednesday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 6,** 8 p.m.: Christian Education Series, Friendship in the Scriptures
- **Sunday, May 10, Rogation Sunday:** 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist (choral) and Confirmation with Bishop Kevin Robertson
- **Saturday, May 30,** 7:30 p.m., Capella Regallis, a touring choir from Halifax
- **Saturday, June 6,** 8:00 p.m., Voices Chamber Choir presenting a celebration of Canadian music
- **Sunday, June 7, Corpus Christi (transferred):** Family Pilgrimage to Toronto Island following 11 a.m. worship
- **Saturday, June 13,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Neighbourhood Fun Fair in church garden
- **Sunday, June 14, Pentecost IV:** 4 p.m., Choral Evensong with churches from the Parkdale West Deanery at St. Mary Magdalene's Church 477 Manning Avenue
- **Saturday, June 20,** Quiet Garden, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Sunday, June 21,** after 11 a.m. service, Strawberry Tea

## Christian Education in the Spring

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By Mary Conliffe

The Christian Education Committee has embraced Father Hatt's desire to see us live more deeply into our Baptismal Covenant and has been providing various opportunities to consider our vows and life together as followers of Jesus Christ.

Our Lenten Study on the Baptismal Covenant has been taking place over five Wednesdays through March, as a supplement to Fr. Hatt's catechetical program with our baptismal, confirmation and reception candidates in the parish. Participants have been enjoying this "refresher" course, as the parish has learned about Baptism and Confirmation (February 25), Prayer with Bp. Victoria Matthews (March 4), the Old Testament with Professor Walter Deller (March 11), and Fasting (March 18).

Almsgiving, Stewardship & Service will take place this coming Wednesday, March 25, with Shelagh McPherson.



St. Martin's Garden Spring 2026

Moving into the Easter Season, we will explore the theme of "Friendship in the Scriptures", specifically holy friendship based on John 15:15: Jesus says, "I no longer call you servants, but friends." There are some notable friendships in the Bible — Ruth & Naomi, David & Jonathan, Paul & Timothy & Barnabas, and Jesus & Mary, Martha, and Lazarus — that will form

the basis of our four-week Wednesday series, from April 15 to May 6.

We are also looking forward to planning a parish retreat at the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine Convent in North York for either late spring or early fall. The newly renovated SSJD Guest House is a quiet and comfortable oasis in the heart of North York where people can stay and participate in the Sisters' intentional community of prayer, and experience the blessings of worship, silence, and stillness. Stay tuned for more information as we secure a date for this wonderful spiritual opportunity.

The Summer Book Club will return in June, July, and August when we invite the parish to read two books — one fiction and one non-fiction — with a view to a robust discussion on their Christian themes and imagery in September. Both Mary and Phil are up for suggestions! If you have a good book that you think the whole parish should read and discuss, let us know.

## Jaby Mathew

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*On November 2, 2025, Jaby Mathew was asked by Fr. Hatt to speak to the congregation as part of the Stewardship Campaign. This article is based partly on Jaby's notes from that talk.*

Jaby's family attended a Christian church in India, the Mar Thoma Church, that was said to have been founded by St. Thomas. According to some accounts, St. Thomas lived in what is now Kerala State in southwest India from 52 CE to 72 CE, when he was martyred. He preached to the Jewish and other local communities in the region. At that time, there were busy trade routes between southwest India and the Roman Empire.

Jaby describes his faith journey as erratic. "I had an on-and-off relationship with God — at least from my side — but I am realizing that from God's side, it was always an "on" relationship. Since my undergraduate years, and maybe even before that, I

have always struggled to believe in God. For some years, I thought I was an atheist, then I thought maybe I am an agnostic. Then I came back to being a believer, but I thought the Church and its practices, including communion, were not important. It's all between you and God.

“So, while I occasionally attended churches, I didn't think it was important. But, in 2017, in the midst of a personal crisis, I thought of going to communion regularly, which comforted me a lot. Since then, I have been trying to attend church services regularly. COVID and other life circumstances were testing times, and there are still testing times for me. I was always amazed by the faith of some, including my parents, who simply believe — no matter what. I am not sure whether it is good not to have to struggle with faith or have doubts and simply believe. But to simply believe is an amazing thing for the “disenchanted and secular” world that we live in.

“In the midst of one of my struggles with faith, I came across the story of a father bringing his spirit-possessed son to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:17–29). Jesus said to the father of the child: ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’ And verse 24 says: ‘Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”’ This is a prayer I have during my crises — ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’ And I ask you all to pray the same for me.”

Earlier, during COVID times, like everyone else, Jaby was attending online on Sundays at a church he attended before the pandemic. When things started getting back to normal, he continued attending online, but his housing situation had changed, and he was now living very far from that church. He yearned to be physically in church for communion and desperately missed it. When he moved into the High Park neighborhood in the summer of 2023, one of the first things he did was to Google nearby Anglican churches, and to his joy, he found that St. Martin's was only a five-minute walk away. Jaby started attending St. Martin's. He had grown up in a church with incense and found St. Martin's

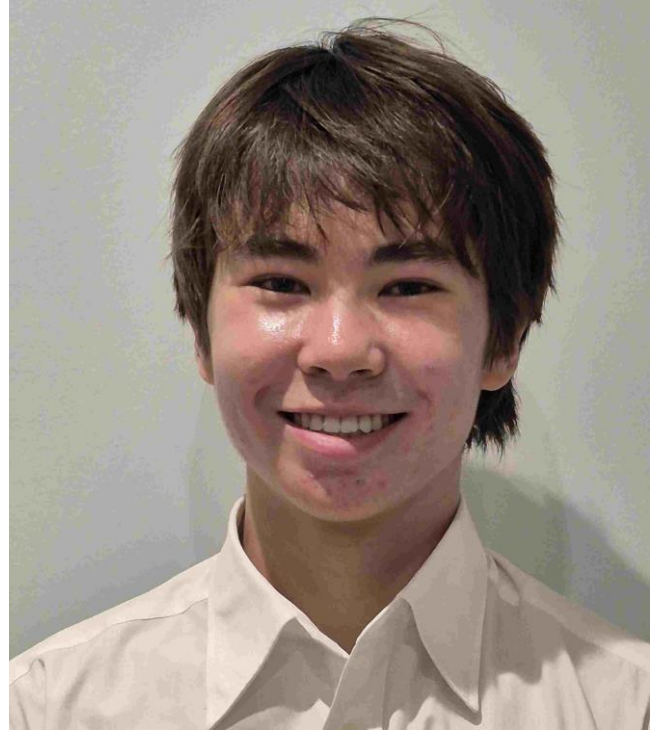
delightful from that perspective. Fr. Harold Nahabedian once told Jaby that when he first came to St. Martin's, it “smelled like a church,” and that pleased him.



**Jaby Mathew**

Jaby had sub-leased the apartment near St. Martin's for three months and tried to find another one in the neighbourhood. Despite his best efforts, he couldn't find a good place in this neighborhood within his budget, so he moved to the St. Clair and Bathurst area, where he still lives. He was deliberating about going to a nearby Anglican church — either St. Michael & All Angels or Grace on-the-Hill, as these were within walking distance. Partly because of the incense, but mostly because of the warmth and acceptance shown by those he managed to get to know at St. Martin's during those three months, he decided to stay at St. Martin's. For instance, Tim Stephenson “always made me feel welcome, and introduced me to fellow political scientist, Ian Greene, with whom I have common research interests. I had a conversation with Kathleen Manneke during coffee hour about how she drives to St. Martin's from Oakville because she loves coming here. And one day, Janet Nahabedian, in her loving way, took my contact details and passed them to Fr. Carefoote. That had an impact on me staying at St. Martin's.”

Jaby has become a committed member of both the Livestreaming Committee and the Outreach Committee at St. Martin's. He said that the other Outreach Committee members made him feel quite welcome when he first joined them, in particular Judith Kidd, who was then the Chair. He especially enjoyed working with Kathy Mansfield on the clothing and toy exchange initiative and shopping with Jay for the Romero House family hamper program. The Christmas lunch at St. Olave's with those in the neighbourhood was a first-hand experience that helped him understand better the needs of those in our communities. He hopes we in St. Martin's will also start an outreach project like that and use the big kitchen and amazing space that we have. He also looks forward to working in the new committee that combines the Outreach and Missional teams.



Luca Morresi

## Luca Morresi: St. Martin's Junior Organ Scholar

By Ian Greene

Starting in the New Year, Luca Morresi began his position as Junior Organ Scholar at St. Martin's. We appreciate his amazing organ skills.

Luca will turn 16 in May. He became an organist through training at St. Michael's Choir School.

Luca had started piano lessons when four, prior to going to school at Holy Trinity Catholic School near Kipling and Lakeshore. Scouts were sent by St. Michael's Choir School to Catholic schools in the GTA. Because he was taking piano lessons, Luca was interviewed when he was in Grade 2 but didn't get an offer. Afterwards he heard the St. Michael's Junior Choir perform at his school, and he was "blown away". When he was in Grade 3, he had progressed with his piano lessons, was interviewed again and offered a position at St. Michael's Choir School. Luca's parents decided to accept the offer with Luca's agreement. After that Luca was given some singing lessons and then started at St. Michael's Choir School in Grade 4.

At St. Michael's, Luca had several piano teachers and then started organ lessons when in Grade 6 when he was 11. To begin with, he didn't like the organ. As he got older, he learned to appreciate the instrument. His lessons starting in Grade 8 were from the St. Michael's Cathedral organist who was "great". As well, Luca began to like choral music. Choir school students would participate in three masses a week and would hear organ before and after services. The Junior Choir was made up of Grade 5 and 6 students, and the Senior Choir was composed of the older students. Luca sang baritone. There was a choir practice in the middle of each day.

There were many choir rehearsals. On Mondays and Tuesdays there were sectional rehearsals, and on Wednesdays, tenor and bass rehearsals. There were many concerts throughout the year, and there were extra rehearsals for these concerts after school.

In spring, 2024, Luca played his first mass at the Cathedral. He had this opportunity because older students at St. Michael's Choir School had travelled to Alberta to perform concerts, and a substitute

organist was needed. This experience resulted in Luca being recommended for positions as substitute organist at other churches, including a Presbyterian church in North York, and St. Olave's in our area. Luca was told by the conductor of the Tallis Choir that St. Martin's was looking for an organ scholar in the fall of 2025 and he was subsequently interviewed by Jack Hattey and played for him. Jack enthusiastically recommended Luca for the St. Martin's Junior Organ Scholar position.

Luca is currently in Grade 10 and will graduate from high school at St. Michael's Choir School in 2028.

Luca enjoys all kinds of music, from classical to jazz. He is a fan of Oscar Peterson. He says that music will always be a part of his life, even if only on the side.

We are indeed fortunate to have Luca at St. Martin's as our Junior Organ Scholar. Please take time to chat with him during coffee hour.

### **From the Archives 25 years ago**

From *The Lychgate*, Lent, 2001

Submitted by Jonathan Gentry, Archivist

### **Volunteering - Year of the Volunteer**

Volunteers are an important part of our society. They help with taking food to shut-ins, mentoring troubled youth, work with the disabled, providing telephone counselling to those in crisis, and the list goes on. This year, 2001, is the year of the volunteer. Countries around the world, including Canada, are celebrating the enormous effort put forward by volunteers. We at St. Martin's are celebrating the year of the volunteer by recognising those at St. Martin's who volunteer their time and talents in many ways.

There are many people who volunteer their time to keep St. Martin's running and help make our services so enjoyable. These people include the sidespeople, altar guild, choir, servers, and many others. Outside the church we have members

volunteer with Scouting, Guiding, crisis line support, minor hockey coaching, and more.

In order to help us celebrate the amount of volunteering done by members of the St. Martin's family we sent around a questionnaire in order for us to understand just how much we as a parish are doing. If you have not filled out your questionnaire and returned it to the church please do so, and if you don't want us to use your name or information we will respect your wishes.

Volunteering is one way in which we, as Christians, give to others in a meaningful way.

### **An Update from the Eacho Family**

By Rebecca Eacho



**Doug, Arthur and Rebecca Eacho visiting Malaysia**

It's almost been three months since our family arrived in Singapore, and we are beginning to feel more settled in. Our shipping container with all of our belongings finally arrived a couple of weeks ago. One item from this shipment that I think might interest this community is the crucifix that once belonged to my great-grandmother. It was given to me by my mother right after the funeral in 2018. The inheritance of this object was deeply meaningful, as I remember many childhood afternoons spent alone, lying in my great grandmother's bed, in order to stare at the crucifix on the wall. I debated whether or not to pack it in my suitcase, but I didn't trust myself to keep track of it during a midnight connection in Hong Kong while managing multiple bags, a stroller, a "hangry" Arthur, and my own sleep-deprived, jet lagged self. I decided to send it with the professionals. My doubts about this decision were renewed upon every update of a delay from the moving company. The third and final delay of our belongings took place after a particularly hard rain over the Chinese New Year, and right before we were about to depart on a weekend trip to Pulau Tengah, Malaysia. Unable to receive the shipment ourselves, we made arrangements to have someone



**Crucifix that belonged to Rebecca's great-grandmother**

else in our apartment. Imagine my relief, gratitude, and surprise when I walked into our apartment the evening of our return and saw that the crucifix was already out of its box, lying on our dining room table, waiting for us to start this new chapter of our lives.

Doug has found great satisfaction teaching and working at the National University of Singapore.

He is excited to attend conferences in Asia and Australia over the coming year—trips he was not able to take while living on the other side of the world. After a bit of an adjustment period, Arthur now reports that he "loves Citypore" (his word for

our new home). In particular, he finds the long and protected sidewalks of faculty housing to be the perfect place to practice riding on his new balance bike. He can see his daycare's playground from his bedroom window on the 25th floor of our apartment building, and he enjoys checking in on that view to see whether or not school is in session. I'm starting the process of looking for work at the university now that Arthur is attending daycare full time. I've been impressed with how family friendly our surroundings are, as well as how beautiful this tropical city-state is.

Both expat and local communities here are welcoming and friendly. We continue to be blessed with plenty of unexpected encounters. While we assumed that we would have very few connections here, we have been pleasantly surprised to meet several families who have a connection to Stanford, our alma mater. The cliché of "it's a small world" rings particularly true during these exchanges and helps soften the transition to a different culture.

Similarly, there have been several moments when our family has been invited to come over to someone's home shortly after meeting (a scenario that delights Arthur to no end). These moments always remind me of the hospitality we received while attending St. Martin's. We are fortunate to continue to be in touch with parishioners while trying to find our church community here. We miss seeing everyone in person, of course, but appreciate the gift of email.

While the novelty of living here continues, Doug and I have noticed a tension creeping in. It feels different than the usual worries of adjusting to life in another country. This unease seems to revolve around the calm we feel in Singapore and the awareness that the United States and other parts of the world continue to grapple with destabilising events. We continue to pray for the safety of our friends and loved ones back home in the US and Toronto, some of whom are directly impacted by the wars happening in the Middle East, and the deportation crackdowns taking place in America.

One development that has given us hope on this front is that we've recently been invited to take the Oath of Canadian Citizenship. This notice unfortunately occurred right as we arrived in Singapore, but we have deferred the order to return until the late summer/early fall when we are more easily able to get away from our commitments here. It is a blessing that we will be able to become Canadian citizens, especially since Arthur was born here and we do not want him to lose his connection to his country. We look forward to coming back to Toronto around then for that event, and plan to visit St. Martin's while we are in town. We hope everyone continues to stay safe and as warm as they can during what we heard was a particularly cold winter in Toronto!

## Capella Regalis Choir at St. Martin's May 30 and 31

By Kathie Wagg

On weekend of May 29–31, St. Martin's will host Capella Regalis, a choir from Halifax, N.S. at the end of their Quebec and Ontario tour. The choir will perform a concert on Saturday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m. and will then sing for our 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 31, Trinity Sunday. Twenty senior members of the Boys' Choir and Girls' Choir, ages 9–14, will be present, as well as 12 members of the Young Men's section with recently changed voices.

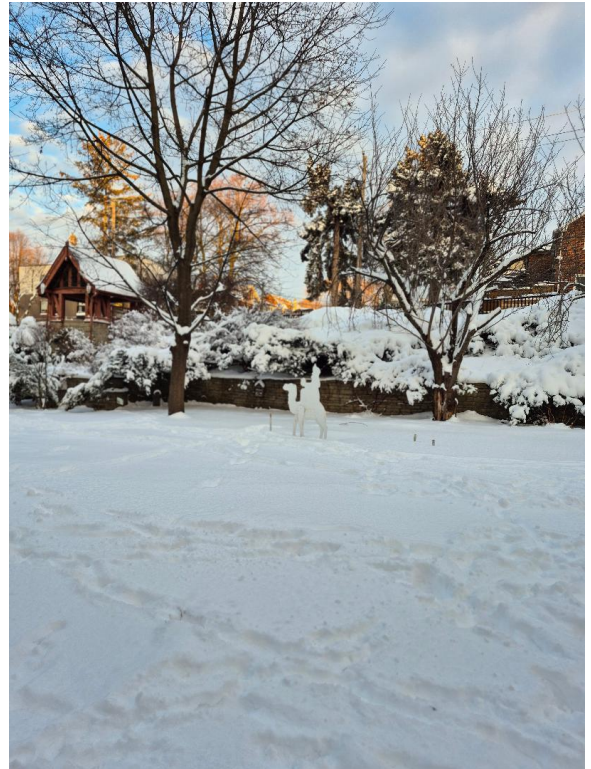
Capella Regalis was founded in 2020 in Halifax by Artistic Director Nick Halley. It has become one of Canada's leading professional choral music organizations. The choir has released five CDs. During the first half of the Saturday evening concert, features from the choir's extensive Evensong repertoire will be performed. The second half will feature contemporary arrangements of folk songs from around the world, with emphasis on historical gems from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. For more information about the Capella Regalis Choirs, see <https://capellaregalis.com/>.



Coffee Hour After 11 a.m. service November 16, 2025 – Philip Dawson



Lunch after Christmas Day Service 2025



A Wise Man Returns Home January 16, 2026