



REVELATIONS

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus

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Message from the Clergy

(by The Rev Claire Bamma, Assistant Curate)

The Graces of Easter – To Receive and To be Shared

After the Resurrection Jesus appeared several times before his disciples. In each of these accounts Jesus reassures them with a message of peace and a presence of comfort. But it doesn't end there. These graces that Jesus gives helps the disciples to fulfil the task for which Jesus commissions them. To go forth and to share the good news. To go into the world, in the power of the Holy Spirit, sharing Christ's love with others, extending the peace and comfort that Jesus gave them.

Let us recall how this plays out in some of our Gospel texts appointed for this season:

- Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene while she was weeping outside the empty tomb, and he told her to tell the other disciples about his resurrection and about his coming ascension (John 20:17).
- Later that day, Jesus appeared to the disciples while they were behind locked doors. He said to them: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And then He breathed on them, so that they would receive the Holy Spirit and be able to extend the graces of peace and of the forgiveness of sins to others (John 20:21).
- At another time, two of the disciples encountered the Risen Lord while they were on the road to Emmaus, and they recognized Jesus in how he opened-up the scriptures and in the breaking of bread. When they returned to tell the rest of the disciples about it, Jesus appeared to the group of them, and said "peace be with you." He encouraged them to take heart and believe, and then he commissioned them to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations and to be "witnesses of these things"; to bear witness to the peace, comfort, and forgiveness of Christ. And knowing that they would need help for this task, Jesus reassures them of the promise of the Holy Spirit, that they will be "clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:36-48).

Like these first disciples, we too can encounter the living God in Jesus Christ and receive these Easter graces, through word and sacrament, through prayer and fellowship, and in many other aspects of our daily lives. And just as we will soon celebrate at Pentecost, let us also

daily receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus breathed upon his disciples. And these graces are meant not only to be received, but to be shared as well; Jesus calls us to proclaim and to extend his love to others and the world.

Such extending of the love of Christ has been my experience here since arriving in the Parish of the Valley nearly two years ago. I have seen so much exchange of Christian love between one another and out into our local communities. As my time as Assistant Curate comes to an end this summer, I also take to heart all of the grace that has been bestowed upon me. How much of the love of Christ I have received through you the Parishioners and through each of my clergy colleagues. Your wise counsel, your faithful prayers, and your comforting presence has blessed me beyond measure, and soon it will be time to share these graces with others. In early July I will begin my next chapter of ministry, as a military Chaplain at CFB Kingston. As I am sent out in this way, I pray that I can take all that I have received from this beloved Parish and share it with others, for the sake of Christ's love for the world and for his glory.

In the Peace and Joy of Christ,

Claire+

Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

The Meaning of Pentecost

The Christian holy day of "Pentecost" derives its name from the Greek word "pentekoste", which means fiftieth. Thus, on the fiftieth day after Easter, we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other followers who were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks (Acts 2: 1-31). However, Eastern Orthodox Christianity considers the entire fifty days following Easter to be Pentecost. And in the Jewish tradition, "Shavuot" is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. In fact, Richard Lenski wrote that the Jewish festival came first and that a distinct Christian celebration did not exist until years later, when the name "Pentecost" was kept, but the date was calculated based on Easter rather than on Passover.

Pentecost is sometimes also called "White Sunday"

(probably because the newly baptized wore white robes on that day), or “Whitsunday”; and in the United Kingdom, the day after (“Whit Monday”) was also a public holiday. This holiday is still observed in many European countries; in Germany, Pentecost (known there as Pfingsten) often coincides with the start of outdoor and springtime activities that include festivals and outdoor youth events. And in some places, the entire week is known as “Whitsun” or “Whitsuntide”, with each day having its own moniker (e.g., Whit Monday, Whit Tuesday, etc.).

Whatever you call it, the Christian tradition holds that Pentecost fulfills the promise that Christ will baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit, though only Luke (3:16) and Matthew (3:11) talk about baptism not only with water but also with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Sponsor a Valley Bulletin!

Would you like to sponsor a colour Valley Bulletin, and offer it to the glory of God and in dedication of a special event, or in memory of loved ones? All members of the Parish of the Valley can now do so!

One of the main ways that we share in prayer and in fellowship across our parish on a weekly basis is through the Parish of the Valley Pew Bulletin. Each week, the clergy team and Gail in the office takes the prayer requests and events shared by our congregations and produces a joint bulletin to help keep us all informed and connected.

For the last three years, Holy Trinity Pembroke has offered a Valley Bulletin sponsorship program. For a donation, members of the Pembroke congregation have dedicated pew bulletins to the glory of God and in loving memory of a loved one or a special event (anniversary, birthday, baptism, wedding, etc). On weeks when the bulletin has been sponsored with a dedication, the office prints the bulletin for Holy Trinity in full colour.

Beginning in 2024, the Holy Trinity Pembroke Church Corporation has decided to direct all donations received from bulletin sponsorship to the Parish of the Valley Communications Fund, on top of the \$2,500 that has already been contributed to the communications fund in 2024 by Holy Trinity. Based on last year’s sponsorship revenue, this means that approximately \$1,500 in additional funding will be added to our parish fund to support our shared communications efforts, whether that be special bulletins for services like baptisms and

funerals, full colour bulletins, Revelations, website hosting costs, and so on.

Bulletin sponsorship can be offered for a donation of \$40, payable by cash or cheque to Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Please call Gail at the office at 613-732-4658 or email office@valleyanglicans.ca to make arrangements. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Parish of the Valley’s shared Communications Fund and you will receive a tax receipt from Holy Trinity Pembroke at year-end.

Pembroke Warming Centre Update (by Maggie Jacques)

The Pembroke Warming Centre will be closing April 19th for the season, but a safe place for homeless people is still lacking. The Warming Centre has drawn attention at the County level and has helped work on an attitude shift to those at all levels of government; the center’s success makes everyone look good. Good publicity is always good for elected officials; some would care because they have a conscience and want to make a difference, others because they need to be lovingly reminded by their constituents that all lives count.

There has been a wide age range in the drop-in clients using this safe place at night. The Warming Centre had an average of 12-13 clients most nights – to a maximum of 19 per night. The Breakfast Program at The Grind has been successful in providing food, access to social services, medical check-ins by professionals.

What many forget, or don’t want to acknowledge, is that every person experiencing homelessness is someone’s child, mother, father, sister, brother, or grandparent. One client who recently visited was 86 years old. This is not a young person’s problem.

Although it is unrealistic to think drug addiction can be “solved”, it is a public health crisis that all levels of government, and medical and social services, need to work on together to devise strategies to help those in need.

Drugs, now especially fentanyl, are a pervasive and frightening reality that destroy families. In some cities, children in elementary schools are being approached with candy laced with fentanyl. Are you mad? Worried? Scared? For many of us, it is all the above.

It has not been all easy going for the Pembroke Warming Centre in 2023-2024. Yes, there have been incidents. And at the same time, the Pembroke Warming Centre’s success isn’t just that people didn’t die frozen in a

snowbank. Rather, it is that this groundbreaking concept has laid a foundation for caring for those in our community who can't care for themselves or have nowhere to go. There is cautious and optimistic hope that a form of Warming Centre will be available for the Winter of 2024-25 (nothing is promised) and in place before the cold weather sets in. But that can only happen with our help as a community of advocates: gently and sternly reminding those in authority that every life matters.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25: 40

Tips for Donating to your Local Congregation

If you are donating to PWRDF and make your cheque out directly to PWRDF, your tax receipt will come from that agency. If you make the cheque out to your home church but put PWRDF on the memo line, your tax receipt will come from your home church.

If you are not using numbered envelopes issued to you, but would like a tax receipt for your donation, please ensure you put your name and address on your envelope. Cash not identified with name or address is considered an “open” offering and is not tax receipted.

When writing cheques, please write LEGIBLY to help us ensure accuracy when recording your donations.

Donations are welcome through any method, and you are encouraged to use your favourite; but some “cost” more than others. Due to processing costs, \$100 given through Tithely is actually \$96.70; through Canada Helps is \$96.00; and through PAR is \$99.70.

If you are donating to food banks or other “external” entities and make your cheque out directly to them, your tax receipt will come from them. If you make the cheque out to your home church but put the entity’s name on the memo line, your tax receipt will come from your home church.

Our parish’s cemeteries are not registered charities and thus cannot issue tax receipts. To make a deductible donation, make cheque payable to your home congregation, with “Cemetery Fund” written on the memo line.

Holy Trinity Pembroke Cemetery’s New Columbarium

Preparatory work for the construction of the new freestanding granite columbarium is underway and the opportunity to purchase niches within it will soon be available! Located at the centre of the historic cemetery in the heart of the City of Pembroke, the seventy-two niches available in the columbarium will be a lovely alternative to standard in-ground plots. The niches will be available for purchase by members of Holy Trinity Pembroke, members of the Parish of the Valley, and members of the public. Please watch for further details and pricing information in the very near future.

Art in the Pews at Holy Trinity (by Jean Ostrom)

Anything that is made by your hands with love and care



is art. We have quilts, hooked rugs, wooden toys, tote bags, pillows, landscape and wildlife photos, paintings of all sorts, pottery, and much more.

The Parish of the Valley has really responded to our call for art and we are thrilled to be putting on this display for you and for the community at large. Some of the art is for sale, a great opportunity to buy something truly unique for Mothers’ Day. There will also be a few items offered for a silent auction, with the proceeds going to our outreach to support Quilts for Survivors, an initiative started by Vanessa Genier, an Indigenous mother from Mississauga First Nation in Ontario, to provide comfort quilts to survivors of residential schools across the country.



But not only is there a feast of art for the eyes and the soul, we also have a feast for the body with a scrumptious high tea, prepared by our wonderful ACW.

Do come and enjoy this one-of-a-kind event. May 4 is the date, at Holy Trinity Church, 68 Renfrew Street, Pembroke, from 11 am until 4 pm.

Why Do Anglicans Sometimes Use a Thurible?

Those who attended our parish's Easter Vigil at Holy Trinity Pembroke may have noticed that the clergy team used what is known as a thurible to distribute the smoke from incense. Holy Trinity's new thurible is made of silver-plated brass and was recently given by a generous donor. Hung by silver chains, it is swung gently to spread incense at key moments during the liturgy. But why?

Not all Anglican liturgies make use of incense, but its use is an ancient custom that has at different times been more,



or less, favoured among Anglicans throughout our long history. When used, it is customary to use it at least three times during the Eucharist – the Entrance Procession to the Lord's Table, the Proclamation of the Gospel, and the Offertory. The rising smoke echoes scripture and is associated with purification. "... the smoke of incense rose with the prayers of saints" (Revelation 8: 1-4). "Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you. (Psalm 141).

Congregations that use incense often use it to mark Principal Feasts or Holy Days: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil, Easter Day, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, Holy Cross Day, All Saints Day, The Reign of Christ, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. It might also be used during the Easter Season, at the ordination of Priests and Deacons, at the consecration of a Bishop, at confirmations, and at the blessing of oils.

What Is A Narthex? How About A Chancel?

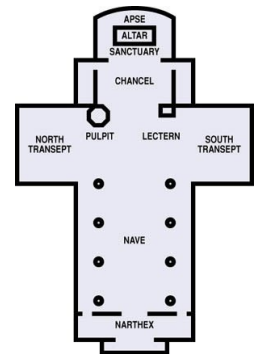
The entry space between the door and the nave of a church is called the narthex, or vestibule, from the Greek for "small case". Historically, penitents at large churches stood in the narthex during the service; but it can also be a gathering place for forming a procession, or a place to wait before services begin.

The nave of a church is the area between the narthex and the sanctuary, and is the place for the congregation. The name may come from the Latin *navis*, meaning ship, which was an early symbol of the church.

The sanctuary is the holy place. It may mean the area around the altar, and it may be separated from the rest of the church by an altar rail; or it may refer to the entire

chancel area, including the choir space and space reserved for clergy. Sometimes it even refers to the entire interior of the church where worship occurs.

The chancel is the area of the church that includes the altar, lectern, pulpit, credence table, and seats for officiating and assisting ministers; and it may include the choir. It is typically raised above the level of the nave, and may be separated from the nave by a screen, rail, or open space.



The sacristy is the room where vestments, altar hangings and linens, sacred vessels, and liturgical books are kept until needed. Clergy usually vest in the sacristy, and from this act the space derives its other name, "Vestry."

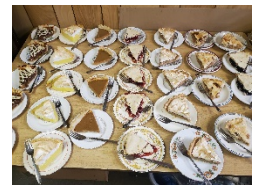


Soup & Sandwich Luncheon at Epiphany Barry's Bay

Thank you to everyone who came to the Soup & Sandwich Lunch at Church of the Epiphany,



Barry's Bay on Friday April 12th. It was our most successful one yet and it was wonderful



to see so many people from the community and from churches across the Parish of the Valley come and enjoy delicious soup, sandwiches, and



homemade pie. Thank you also to all of the hard-working volunteers, cooks, drivers, and organizers - we couldn't have done it without you! Church of the Epiphany will be hosting another Soup & Sandwich later in the year - stay tuned for the date!

Eganville Macaroni & Cheese Cook-off Returns!

Who will win this year's "Holy Macaroni" Crown? You can decide at the Eganville Ministerial Group's Macaroni & Cheese Cook-off on April 27 at 6pm at St. John's Eganville. Local amateur cooks are in competition for the Crown and bragging rights for the best macaroni & cheese in the Valley!

For \$15 per ticket, your job is to taste all of the macaroni & cheese and judge which is the best and worthy of the Holy Macaroni Crown. In addition to different macaroni & cheese entries, there will be sides of salads and rolls and a delicious dessert, as well as a silent auction during dinner.

All proceeds go to the Eganville Rotary Club Charitable Fund for Mental Health and the Bonnechere Union Public Library Youth Program. For tickets, please call Karen Mann (905-984-9310) or Dorothy Langman (613-791-2766).

St. Thomas Rankin Hosts a Trivia Night

Faced with some necessary repairs to the church basement, parishioners at St. Thomas' Rankin are hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser at the nearby Rankin Culture & Recreation Centre. The Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, May 25th with the doors opening at 6pm and the game beginning at 7pm.

Cost is \$10 per person, with tables of six so gather some friends and reserve a table (or two!) to play. There will be a cash bar provided by the Rankin Centre and snacks available for purchase provided by St. Thomas parishioners.

To register and reserve your spots, please call Bonnie Dumouchel at 613-735-5529. Registration deadline is May 20th, but spots are expected to fill before then, so don't wait!

Holy Trinity ACW Rummage Sale

Spring always begins in the Parish of the Valley with rummage sales! The first one of the season was held at Holy Trinity Pembroke on April 13th, hosted by the Holy Trinity ACW. With a line that began forming at least thirty minutes before the doors opened, the church hall was soon full of people browsing



and shopping. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event another huge success. Over \$1200 was raised and the generosity of the community allows the ACW to support many outreach opportunities in our community. Thank you!



Please plan to come out to the next Parish of the Valley rummage sale at All Saints Petawawa on Saturday, April 27th from 9am-Noon.

This edition of Revelations was generously sponsored by:

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Easter Across the Parish of the Valley

