

# THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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MID ADVENT 2005

An occasional Newsletter for Parishioners and Friends of Saint Thomas's Church, Toronto

## Bishop Names Fr Freeland Canon

Collation at Cathedral January 29

Fr Brian Freeland has been associated with Saint Thomas's Church for nearly 50 years. However, as many parishioners know, his influence on the Canadian Church has gone far beyond his parochial ministry as our beloved Assistant Priest. Father's work as Supervisor of Religious Programming for the CBC, his involvement with the World Council of Churches and his support for the Religious Life as a Priest Associate of the Sisters of Saint John the Divine have all

been seminal. Usually, the appointment of Honorary Canons of the Cathedral is limited to long-serving Rectors within the Diocese. However, at the recent synod, Bishop Johnson honoured Fr Freeland with such a designation, in recognition of the widespread influence of this exceptional Priest. Father will be collated Canon in a Service to be held at Saint James' Cathedral at 4:30 pm on Sunday, January 29. The Saint Thomas's family celebrated with brief speeches and a cake after Mass the Sunday following Synod.



The Revd Canon Brian Freeland

## Impressionistic Impressions of Synod, November 17-19, 2005

Canon 4, "Strategic Priorities" discussions found discouraging

Personal reflections by one of Saint Thomas's Delegates, Carolyn Lund-Mead

It all had its beginning at the Pre-Synod meeting for the York-Credit Valley, with what seemed to be a peppy sales pitch. In a pleasant, generically minimalist place of worship I find myself being driven along a road by Bishop Poole and Allison Knight, CAO. They are cheerfully and confidently chatting about how we are road-testing the Vision of the Right Reverend Colin Johnson, Bishop of Toronto, a vision that requires a shift in emphasis – from church buildings to church ministry: "the church is an instrument, not an object of God's mission." Very sensible. Who can argue against human resources coming before bricks and mortar?

We are all participating in a bus tour

of the Country of Strategic Priorities. It is necessary that this country demonstrate considerable openness to new transformative expressions of worship. At the same time, a greater respect for the authority of Scripture (the Story) coupled with church tradition (our history) will enable God's call, while the gifts of music and of our unique liturgy will powerfully proclaim the gospel. Wherever the homeless are to be found, we will provide communities of compassion and hope. A new adaptive generation of leaders at different levels of the Church will be prepared to make difficult decisions to transform the map of the diocese. "O God, help us 'to streamline and reorient the diocese'" sounds somewhat awkward if yoked

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## Special Services of the Season

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 18th, at 7 pm.

SOLEMN MIDNIGHT MASS

Saturday, December 24th, at 11 pm – Organ Recital by John Tuttle commencing at 10:20 pm: *La Nativité du Seigneur*, Olivier Messiaen  
Music of the Mass: *Missa ad praepepe*, George Malcolm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25th – Low Mass 8:00 am (BCP); Sung Mass 9:30 am (BAS)  
Solemn High Mass 11:00 am  
Music of the Mass: *Missa Corde natus ex parentis*, Healey Willan)

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 8 – Low Mass 8:00 am (BCP); Sung Mass 9:30 am (BAS) Solemn High Mass 11:00 am – (Music of the Mass: *Missa O magnum mysterium*, Victoria)

Solemn Evensong with Epiphany Carols, Procession and Devotions of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00

NB: No Solemn Evensong on Sundays, December 25th and January 1st.

Confessions will be heard Advent Fridays 6:00-6:30 pm

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## Synod...

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to the prayer, "O God, help us in our mission of ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of every individual serving in and served by the vital Anglican presence within our inner-city deanery. In a move to streamline the diocese, churches are being labeled "not financially viable". To the angel of the Church at St. Stevens in the Field write, "I know your finances, they are not viable".

What financial changes accompany the New Strategic Priorities? Diocesan Council will propose to Synod that the parish allotment be changed "so as to encourage parishes to invest in ministry". The New Era will dawn, it seems, with a few deft changes to Canon 4: 1) Churches will immediately be penalized for money received for property rentals – a practice employed in good faith by good stewards until the present moment, often as an effective means of outreach in their communities. Churches will retroactively be assessed for income received in years prior to the proposed change. 2) Parish Share: Diocesan Council, which may establish a minimum amount to be raised from any one congregation or parish, has indicated that this amount will be \$3000.

The abruptness of these announcements from the Diocese (first communication in October) leaves parish treasurers without crucial information necessary to verify or completely understand increased assessments. In spite of the fact that a community capacity study for Riverdale, for instance, has just been commissioned, the Bishops and their staff are criss-crossing the diocese, not just road-testing, but urging delegates to vote for the adjustments to Canon 4 in a few weeks time. *Why this untimely haste?*

Increased assessments are represented in dollars per week per giver. That adds up very quickly. At the highest end,

two parishes will see an increase of greater than \$4 per giver. *Do I detect cowardice, or shame, in not naming a figure representing more than a \$1,460 yearly increase per giver for a church that is already struggling?* Although not specified, parishes representing the greatest increase in assessment are those least capable of bearing it. Parkdale deanery is particularly hard hit. This is the inner city where, according to the Bishop's roadmap of the Country of Strategic Priorities, there will be communities of compassion and hope. Since they already exist in Parkdale, could we not put some of the New Vision passion into maintaining the church footprint so vital in this neighbourhood?

Voices from the floor at the Pre-Synod meeting are being invited to respond. A parishioner from St. Anne's speaks. "We are a financially viable church. We have managed to clear our debt and restore the structure of the church. We are financially stable. The increased assessment will put us over the edge, it will put us into the vicious cycle of debt that leads to despair and burnout. We will not make it into the Country of New Vision. *Stop the Bus! I want to get off the Bus!* There are no words of compassion forthcoming for this woman as she turns and moves back to her seat. Up to the microphone steps a priest, confident in his strength, looking neither to right nor to left, but at the test-drivers of the New Vision. *When he saw her he passed by on the other side.* "You're doing the right thing! It takes courage to do what you are doing! We need this change" he declares resoundingly.

In a generic airport hotel the Pre-Synod scenario plays itself out in the Synod. Many more parishioners tell stories of their churches at microphones around the room. Some come from small multi-point churches in the country. They tell with pride of bringing down their

debt, of managing to keep the building in decent shape, sometimes of growing very slowly while being aware of future possibilities in an area that is beginning to build up around them. They end by saying that if the changes to Canon 4 are ratified their church will die. *It is expedient for us that a few should die for the many.*

From the platform the Bishop declares that no church will die as a result of these changes, that this New Vision is about life not death. *This is not an argument, this is a contradiction. No it's not. Yes it is. No...* This, in fact, is a standoff between deductive and inductive reasoning. The validity of the deductive logic is possible only by ignoring the particular facts and individual cases from which the conclusions of the inductive process of reasoning are being drawn.

During the excruciating two and a half hours of this process on Saturday morning, a woman at the table beside me is containing, with great discipline, her intense anger. She moves to the microphone to speak passionately and eloquently of her small, carefully managed rural church that is about to be plucked up by the roots. Before we part, she tells me that Bishop Johnson spoke at the Pre-Synod Meeting of the Trent Durham Area Council in Peterborough. "He told us", she reports to me through disdainful lips, "If your church closes, go across the street to the United Church." *Ah yes, the generic church shall swallow up the particular. The rich language of Christian symbolism represented in our Anglican Churches shall fall mute. But what about the church tradition that, along with the Bible, is to be promoted in our Country of New Vision? Bishop Johnson seems to be off the road map, or is he? Betrayed, I feel betrayed.*

At 12:45 on Saturday, November 20th, 2005, 72.5% of the assembled delegates voted in favour of adopting the changes to Canon 4. A 75% vote was required to carry it. *Thank you, Gracious God, for this brief reprieve.*

## THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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“...lastly, not all make it in. The unwise virgins return and the door is shut. From the inside they hear those chilling words 'I never knew you.' Hard words for those of us who prefer the buffet style of what we take and leave of Christian teaching. But who serves up reality in that buffet?”  
*From "Reflections in Eternity's Mirror,"  
The Living Church, November 6, 2005*

# The Rector's Advent Message

*Almighty God, give us grace, that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.*

Advent Sunday is not just the official countdown to Christmas, but marks the beginning of a new Church year. In the earliest days of the Church, Easter was the first day of the Church Year, as it is still in the Churches of the East. The Church in the West had adopted Christmas as the beginning of the ecclesiastical year by the fourth century. The Season of Advent was established as a time of instruction in preparation for baptisms at Epiphany. Originally Advent started on Saint Martin's day, November 11th, but it was later shortened to the four weeks prior to Christmas.

The Collect for Advent Sunday was composed by Archbishop Cranmer for the 1549 Prayer Book, and in the 1662 revision it was enjoined to be read each day of Advent. The Collect ties together the two advents of Christ – the coming of Christ as an Infant, and His coming again in glory, and in doing so invites us to see them as part of the same gracious activity of God. God was born into the world to open the way to eternal life. He shall return as Judge of the quick and the dead in order to make that opening a reality.

By joining together the two advents of Christ, the Collect also invites us to consider our own life, both mortal and immortal, as a unity. Each stage of our life, from birth to death to rising again, and every aspect of our life, from family life to working life to church life, is to be unified by the process of casting off the works of darkness and putting upon us the armour of light.

We live in a society that encourages us to compartmentalize our lives. The frenetic pace of our lives makes it necessary to book time for all the things we think important. Consequently our lives seem to be a series of complex discrete activities and interests.

The Collect for Advent encourages us to find wholeness and unity of purpose

in all our diverse interests, activities, and relationships. Every thing we do, and every one we encounter, should provide an opportunity for casting off darkness and putting on light.

Our Lord Jesus Christ promises to be with us always, *even to the end of the ages*, and to help us find unity of purpose in our complex lives. He is born into the world in Bethlehem, and by the operation of the Holy Spirit He is born in our hearts and minds. He is present to us in Word and Sacrament so that His life may be our life, both now and eternally.

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, mercy and compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another... And above all these put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness (Col 3:12f).*

## "Anglican School" for Adults

Classes for adults interested in knowing more about the Christian Faith and the Anglican expression of it are held each year at St Thomas's. This year's class is taking a different format from previous years because of the large and diverse group of participants. Fifteen adults are registered for the classes, many of them choristers. Some are life-long Anglicans, some were confirmed a number of years ago, some are brand new to Anglicanism, and some brand new to the Church. Originally advertised as an Inquirers and Adult Confirmation Class, the participants quickly dubbed it "Anglican School".

There are three "terms" with a total of fifteen classes. Each session is centred around one of the liturgical seasons, the first five classes focussing on Advent and Christmas. The liturgical practices peculiar to each Season are explored in order to gain an understanding of why we do the things we do at St Thomas's. The lessons and hymns associated with the Seasons are read or sung, and their doctrinal implications studied.

Fathers Andrews, Freeland, and Ross, are taking turns leading the sessions, and they all are trying to be present for every class. They find it tremendously encouraging and exciting to participate in the classes, and to engage in conversation with such a large group of "inquirers". As the classes progress and develop it is

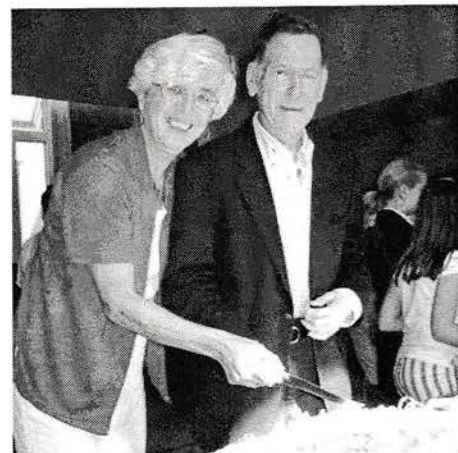
hoped that some of the participants will deliver papers exploring areas of particular interest to them, or, perhaps, on doctrines that they find particularly difficult to grasp or believe.

Food has been a significant part of the gatherings so far. Lunches at the Rectory provided by the participants have included Italian, Greek, and Cape Breton cuisine. The second term begins in January, and will look at the Seasons from Advent to Easter. The third term is in May and will consider Ascension and Trinity.

## Private Confession

Advent and Lent are two Seasons in which it is particularly appropriate to make a private confession. This ancient practice is part of our Anglo-catholic heritage because it is an excellent and proven way to ensure that you are maintaining, and growing, your spiritual life. When a good confession is made the absolution of God establishes a peace in our souls that reflects the peace about which the angels sang when Christ was born.

Confessions will be heard by the priest on duty following the Friday evening Eucharist throughout Advent. They will be at their post until 6:30 or until the last person has made his or her confession. Alternatively, an appointment can be made with any of the clergy of the parish at a mutually agreeable time.



Wally Blois celebrates his 70th Birthday with a post-Mass cake in the Parish Hall. Marilyn Ramsingh assists with the cutting.



Claire Fong,  
appointed Nursery Supervisor

## Nursery Supervisor Appointed Claire Fong Joins St. Thomas's Team

by Charis Kelso

Claire Fong, a third year student at the University of Toronto, has joined the St. Thomas's family as our new Nursery Supervisor. Throughout her schooling Claire has had an interest in caring for children. While attending secondary school in Hong Kong, Claire spent time working at a local orphanage; as a university student she continues to baby sit for a Toronto family with young children who attend the Huron Playschool – a longstanding St. Thomas's tenant.

From day one at St. Thomas's, Claire has enjoyed a great rapport with parents and children alike. She is devoted to ensuring that the young children in her care are safe and happy during their time in the nursery. Her energy and enthusiasm are wonderful and her smile says it all. We are delighted to have Claire on board.

### New Books In The Parish Library

by Marion Dorosh, Librarian

The following three books are most welcome donations:

**Dissolution**, by C.J. Sansom. This is both a mystery and historical novel taking place in the time of Henry VIII when monasteries were being destroyed. It is an excellent read.

**The Book of Heaven**: an anthology of writings from ancient to modern times, edited by Carol & Philip Zaleski.

**Christianity: two thousand years**, edited by Richard Harries. This often-witty series of essays by British academics celebrates the highlights of two millennia of religious thought and practice.

## The Upper Room: Adult Christian Education Programming in Epiphanytide 2006

by Carol Kysela

**St. Thomas's Goes to the Movies**: a monthly series of 5 movies, all but the February Movie to be hosted by K. Corey Keeble. The series focuses on the development of tolerance within our own tradition looking at both contemporary films to link specific elements of our love of neighbor commandment as well as at films that reflect our tradition's struggles to understand who we are and how we differ from our Christian brothers and sisters of other traditions. The discussion following our February film, *Seeking Salvation: a History of the Black Church in Canada*, will be hosted by friends close to the film since its release. All films to be shown on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall and followed by a light supper for which a donation of \$6 will be asked.

January 22: *Blazing Saddles*

February 26: *Seeking Salvation: A History of the Black Church in Canada*

**Prophetic Scriptures and Social Justice**: We Christians are asked again and again to, "Love mercy, do Justice and walk humbly with our God." Both our Christian and ancient Hebrew Testaments continually call us to work actively for those in need. But what does it mean for us to do so and how are we to find the ingenuity, strength and time that it might entail? The Diocese of Toronto issued a Housing Advocacy Campaign Kit in 2005 which includes a series of references to

prophetic texts of the Old and New Testaments. For one evening we will be looking at some of those texts, how they strengthen us, how they direct us, how they push us to meet this obligation. Future details on location, in the home of one of our parishioners, and date, an evening during January or February, will appear in the Sunday bulletin.

## PARISH NOTES

The Altar Guild invites anyone who can help sweep, clean brass and iron or assist generally to join in their major clean-up of the Sanctuary, Vestry and Sacristy in preparation for Christmas: Thursday December 8th... **Out of the Cold** guests need new socks, mittens, hats and unused travel-sized toiletries: these will be collected after the morning Masses on Sundays, December 11 & 18, along with any loose change, banknotes or cheques to assist in the Christmas Eve Dinner being held in the Parish Hall... **The Church School** has chosen World Vision's Christmas Gift Programme as its special project. The children are raising money toward the purchase of livestock, blankets, clean water, food and children's toy boxes. Cheques (clearly marked "Church School Outreach Project") may be placed in the collection plate or sent to the Church Office... With regret, Corporation has decided that **dogs may not enter the Church or Parish Hall...** **The Choir's CD *Gladdening Light*** will be available for purchase (\$20) in the Parish Hall every Sunday of Advent after the 11 am Mass... The Second and Third Terms of the **Adult Inquirers/Confirmation Class** will be held in the Rectory after the 11 am Mass January 15-February 19 and May 7-28. Taught by the Parish Clergy, the sessions explore some of the Church and Anglo-Catholicism's fundamental doctrines and practices. Please speak to any of the Priests should you be interested in joining this programme...

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"It seems that the world looks very different through God's eyes and through ours. We may overestimate what we have to do to please God. Mary and Joseph only had to say yes, and God was pleased that they were willing to be part of the divine plan...Mary and Joseph are excited simply to be working with God, and they don't care what they are going to get out of it for themselves."

From *Approaching Christmas*,  
by Jane Williams

## *Worship, Celebrate, Fundraise*

# January 21 event to Honour Layreaders and Volunteers & Raise Funds for Saint Thomas's "Cell" at SSJD Convent

Advent Sunday saw the Rector announce from the pulpit that the Parish's two long-serving Layreaders, Walter Hardacre and Mary Suddon, had decided to relinquish this portion of their multi-faceted service to Saint Thomas's. He added that "It is thus an appropriate time to recognize both their extraordinary devotion and that of others in our midst. And what better way to do so than in the context of lending support to another long association of the Parish – the Sisters of Saint John the Divine?"

The Sisters recently have moved into a new convent built on the grounds of their Saint John's Rehabilitation Hospital in Willowdale. Saint Thomas's has been asked to donate \$6,000 towards a "cell" or guest room that will be dedicated to our patron saint. Frs Ross and Freeland, both of whom are priest-associates at SSJD, took on the task of raising the money for this endeavour, of which about one-half remains to be collected.

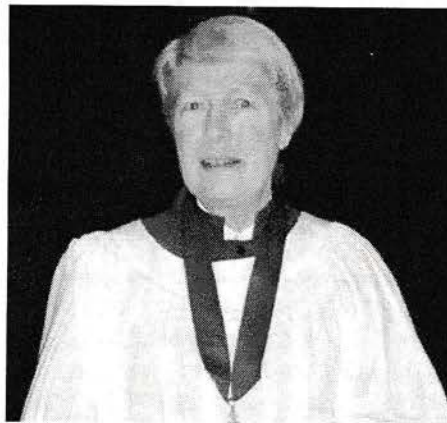
In the Trinitytide 2005 *Parish Newsletter* Fr Ross wrote:

"Since there is a significant historical connection between St. Thomas's and the Sisterhood (the Sisters attended Mass here when their convent was on Major St – their Mother Foundress, Hannah Grier Coome is pictured on the triptych in our Lady Chapel), it would be a great pity not to achieve this one, small

contribution to the overall cost of the new convent. The Sisters have offered, and continue to offer in an improved physical environment, an essential ministry of hospitality for those of all faiths (or none) who seek spiritual direction

and retreat from the noise of the modern world. It is crucial that the Catholic parishes of this diocese support the religious life – especially this parish with its strong connection to SSJD."

## *Living Parish Icons to be Feted January 21*



*Mary Suddon*



*Walter Hardacre with  
Area Bishop Philip Poole*



*John Gardham, the Parish's chef extraordinaire, prepared scrumptious meals for the Michaelmas and All Saints Day Dinners, and is now planning an even more amazing feast for the January 21st Fund-Raising and Tribute Gala!*

### **5:30 pm – Worship Service**

We will begin our evening with a candlelit Service of Light and Vigil of the Resurrection. This is the Convent's traditional Saturday night worship service. Father Freeland will deliver a homily on the link between Saint Thomas' and SSJD.

### **6:15 pm – Appetizers and Refreshments**

After our worship, we will move into the parish hall for appetizers and beverages.

### **6:45 pm – Presentation**

Sister Constance-Joanna will give a presentation on the new convent, its mission and the Saint Thomas "cell"

### **7:00 pm – Main Course**

### **7:45 pm – Presentation**

At this time, we will honour some of our own. Many amongst us make contributions of service all of the time.

### **8:15 – Dessert with Coffee & Tea**

A rich selection of Pastries from the Black Forest Bakery in Oakville plus samplings of real Italian Gelato.

**Ticket information from Parish Office (416) 979-2323**

# Keys To Parish Growth

## Part One: Reclaiming Our Identity

by Fr John D. Alexander, Rector,  
St Stephen's Church, Providence, RI

*Reprinted by kind permission of Fr Alexander [Fr Alexander's message was originally intended for his congregation, but it has already been widely reprinted, and seems apt for Saint Thomas's situation, as well - Ed]*

Parish churches today are caught in a double bind. On one hand, more and more parishes are finding it difficult to keep pace with rising costs. Many parishes that were able twenty-five years ago to support a Rector and Curate(s) must now make do with a Rector alone. Many parishes that were able twenty-five years ago to support a full-time Rector must now make do with a part-time Priest-in-Charge. Rising costs of insurance, utilities, repairs, salaries, and benefits are straining church budgets everywhere. It is said that the only churches that can expect to be found open in another twenty-five years are those churches that start growing now.

On the other hand, however, church attendance and membership are declining across the board. As our society becomes more secular, fewer people are attending church. For this reason, achieving growth in attendance and membership is more of a challenge than ever. The churches that are growing are those that are succeeding in swimming against the tide.

The literature on church growth is extensive. But many of its strategies are shallow and superficial, pandering to the worst features of our consumerist culture. The more valid strategies instead emphasize building committed communities that attract newcomers by a clear sense of identity, purpose, and mission. Church growth experts maintain that the churches most likely to thrive and prosper in the coming hard years are those that emphasize their distinctiveness in relation to the secular culture and challenge their members to the highest possible levels of committed participation. Paradoxically, the growing churches will be those that make more rather than fewer

demands upon their members.

In line with this approach, I want to suggest that our Anglo-Catholic identity and tradition should not be seen as an obstacle to growth but rather as our most powerful resource. Parish growth is of two kinds: outward and inward. Outward growth - i.e., growth in numer-



ical attendance and membership - follows upon inward growth - i.e., growth in the faith, commitment, and spirituality of the parish community.

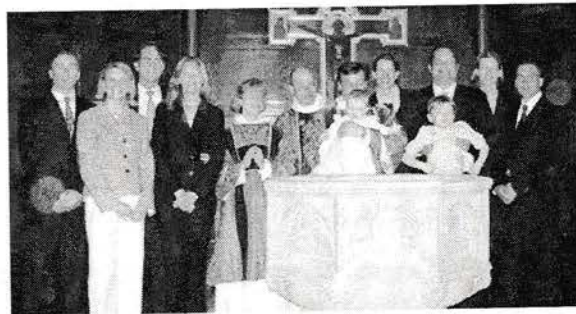
We can grow, then, by reclaiming the essential practices and disciplines of our



parish's Anglo-Catholic heritage. And in this article, I want to propose eight key steps that we can all take towards this end.

### 1. Sunday Mass Attendance

The first step is to maximize the Sunday Mass attendance of our existing



congregation. Consistent Sunday Mass attendance will boost parish growth. Visitors and newcomers are attracted to churches whose pews are more full than empty on a Sunday morning. Newcomers are likely to keep coming back to a church where existing parishioners are deeply committed to the practice of their faith - and the single most revealing external indicator of such commitment is consistent Sunday attendance. Newcomers are likely to keep coming back to a church where they can count on seeing the same people Sunday after Sunday, so that relationships can form and friendships can develop.

### 2. Daily Mass Attendance

Mass has been celebrated daily here at S. Stephen's since December of 1886. For most of our history, a key component of our mission and outreach to the local community and the wider world has been opening our doors every day for worship. Many visitors and newcomers show up for the first time not on a Sunday but on a weekday. The more parishioners there are at daily Low Mass, the more likely such weekday visitors are to gain a first impression of a vibrant parish community and to want to come back.

### 3. Daily Prayer

An old saying has it that no-one has the right to criticize the sermon who has not first prayed for the preacher. By the same principle, no-one has the right to bemoan a parish's failure to grow who is not regularly praying for that parish. Prayer really does make a difference. It is unlikely that God will send us new members if we neglect to ask him for them. Moreover, visitors and newcomers intuitively sense the depth of a community's spirituality, and are attracted to a praying parish.

### 4. Special Services

A key component of our mission and outreach at S. Stephen's is the offering of choral services such as Solemn Evensong and Benediction, Advent Lessons and Carols, and Solemn High Masses at times other

than Sunday mornings. These occasional services attract significant numbers of visitors and guests. They thus constitute a prime opportunity to welcome and befriend visitors to S. Stephen's. It follows that one sure method of contributing to parish growth is to attend as many of these evening services as possible and to make every effort to interact with visitors at the receptions following. It is difficult to imagine a more obvious opportunity for evangelism.

### 5. Fasting

As noted above, growing churches tend to challenge their members to high levels of committed participation; and a key measure of such commitment in an Anglo-Catholic setting is adherence to the Church's discipline of fasting. The Church Year prescribes regular days and seasons of fasting, abstinence, and self-denial. The ancient and universal custom of the Church bids us fast before receiving Holy Communion. Fasting is a powerful means of intercession. For example, we are bidden to fast and pray on the quarterly Ember Days for mission and ministry of the Church. The more parishioners fast and pray regularly for the parish, the more we can expect great things to happen.

### 6. Confession

Another key measure of the spiritual health and vitality of an Anglo-Catholic parish is the number of confessions made by its parishioners. A congregation comprising many regular penitents is a congregation that is serious about the struggle against sin and the quest for holiness; and this is deeply attractive to newcomers. In the history of S. Stephen's, the times of greatest growth in attendance and membership have been the times of the greatest use of the confessional. In 1920, for example, the number of regular penitents had grown to the point that the weekly scheduled time for confessions had to be extended to three hours! As noted above, reclaiming our Anglo-Catholic identity is indispensable to our future growth. And the confessional is an indispensable component of our Anglo-Catholic identity.

### 7. Stewardship

Growing parishes are generous parishioners. One obvious reason is that the more parishioners give, the better the parish is able to take care of its buildings and facilities. Buildings and grounds in a

state of disrepair project the image of a church in decline; and such an image tends to repel newcomers. By contrast, well-kept facilities project the image of a congregation that loves and cares for its church; and such love and care is deeply attractive to newcomers. Moreover, generosity in Christian giving expresses a mature level of spiritual commitment. There is something deeply attractive about the joyful and enthusiastic spirit of Christians who are cheerful givers.

### 8. Mission

If we are truly practicing the disciplines that make us Anglo-Catholics – attending Mass, saying our prayers, keeping the fasts, confessing our sins, and giving generously – we can expect God to lead us to ever-deepening engagement in the Church's mission. Those seeking a church often say that they want a community where they can *make a difference* by becoming involved in ministries of service to the community and world. By engaging in mission, an Anglo-Catholic parish demonstrates the authenticity of its faith by living the truth proclaimed in its liturgy. A growing parish is a parish reaching out in mission.

### Conclusion

Given our wonderful liturgy and music, parishioners sometimes wonder why more people don't come to S. Stephen's. Some suggest that we need more publicity: that we have a great product, but need to market it more effectively. The fact is, however, that we are already doing everything we reasonably can to publicize our services, events, and programs. And in this article I have suggested that the real challenge before us is not so much to market our liturgy as to *live* it. There is no better advertisement than a congregation seriously practicing the faith that its liturgy proclaims. And the eight steps outlined above represent how Anglo-Catholics put their faith into practice.

These steps need not wait for the initiation of any formal programs by Rector, Wardens, or Vestry. Parishioners can begin to undertake them *now*, on their own initiative. When the majority of parishioners put these eight steps into action, the results will be dramatic. We shall grow in our sense of identity and purpose – in our faith, commitment, and spiritual maturity – and growth in our attendance and membership will certainly follow.



Man of many hats, Jean-Paul Napier assumes Verger's role on January 1

## Jean-Paul Napier appointed Verger

Corporation has appointed Jean-Paul Napier as Verger of Saint Thomas's Church, effective January 1, 2006. Jean-Paul is well known through his many involvements within the life of the Parish, most recently as Secretary of the Acolytes' Guild.

The office of Verger is an ancient one within the Church, sharing similarities with the minor orders of Porter and Acolyte. By tradition, vergers are responsible for the order and upkeep of the house of worship, including preparations for the liturgy, the conduct of the laity and the digging of graves! While we doubt Jean-Paul will need to exercise the latter two offices, he will undertake some of Colin Anderson's role in light maintenance and cleaning, and as well, will assume much of the responsibility for cleaning the Sanctuary and maintaining the Sacred Vessels and other Ornaments of Worship.

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There are two inseparable aspects of every vocation: the free gift of God and the responsible freedom of man. The vocation is a gift of divine grace, received through the Church, in the Church, and for service of the Church. By responding to the call of God, man offers himself freely to Him in love. The mere desire to become a priest is not sufficient and there is no right to receive sacred Ordination.

*From the Instruction of the Congregation for Catholic Education, published by the Holy See on November 4, 2005*

# Financial Update: Revenue Up, Expenses Steady

by Anna Kennedy, Parish Treasurer

The Parish's finances as of 31 October showed a continuing and most gratifying increase in givings, while expenses still are tracking very close to budget. Particularly successful has been the Deficit Reduction Programme. Between the receipt of over \$8000 of designated donations along with the revenue from Dine Away the Deficit dinners, we will surely reach our goal of \$11,299!

	Full Yr 2005 Budget	1 Jan to 31 Oct 2005 Budget	Actuals	2004	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Income</b>						
Congregational Givings	280,418	204,125	232,911	194,631	38,280	20
Investment Income			178	284	-106	-37
Memorials & Bequests			5,849	6,403	-553	-9
Miscellaneous Income			2,562	3,050	-489	-16
Parish Committees			6,705	6,561	144	2
Parish Fundraising Events			811	5,423	-4,613	-85
Rental Income			27,292	24,971	2,320	9
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>343,726</b>	<b>255,242</b>	<b>276,308</b>	<b>241,324</b>	<b>34,984</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
Administrative Costs			14,063	12,630	1,432	11
Maintenance			26,816	11,478	15,339	134
Sanctuary Costs			4,187	4,108	79	2
Utilities			22,992	23,277	-285	-1
Risk Management			13,288	14,586	-1,297	-9
Outreach			66,856	63,976	2,880	5
Parish Committee costs			7,330	11,624	-4,294	-37
Benefits			19,904	18,889	1,015	5
Clergy Salaries			53,022	52,929	93	0
Section Leader costs			37,095	36,312	782	2
Staff & Service contract costs			73,568	75,664	-2,097	-1
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>415,024</b>	<b>340,761</b>	<b>339,122</b>	<b>325,475</b>	<b>13,647</b>	<b>4</b>
Income before transfers:	-71,298	-85,519	-62,814	-84,152	21,338	25
Transfers from						
Trust & Endowment	60,000	55,000	44,970	51,433	-6,463	-13
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>-11,298</b>	<b>-30,519</b>	<b>-17,844</b>	<b>-32,719</b>	<b>14,875</b>	



## Parish Newsletter Now Available Electronically

Parishioners and Friends of Saint Thomas's now enjoy a choice as to how they wish to receive the Parish Newsletter, issued quarterly.

First – we are happy to continue to offer readers a print version. Once the Newsletter is printed, Marilyn Ramsingh and Barb Obrai mail copies to out-of-town and shut-in readers. John Aimers labels all other copies, which volunteers distribute to those attending Mass on the two Sundays following the printing, after which those still remaining are also mailed.

Second – thanks to John Meadows, Parish Webmaster, we can now make available an electronic subscription. Simply let John know your preference to receive the Newsletter in this format by e-mailing him at – John will then notify you when the PDF file of each issue is ready to be downloaded. (A free PDF reader is available). If you choose this option, we will no longer print and address a "hard copy" of the PN for you, thereby saving considerable expense.

Be assured that copies of the Parish Newsletter will always continue to be printed for distribution at the back of the Church to Sunday visitors, for parishioners without computer access and for those of us who prefer having what we read printed on paper and in our hands!

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“Our beloved Episcopal Church is like a fine old oak tree caught in a hurricane. The leaves are being stripped and the branches are cracking because hurricanes are violent, with winds howling and debris flying through the air. We gaze in sorrow at the damage being done by the chaotic and furious winds. But the trunk and the root, the faith and worship of the Prayer Book, are still there, eagerly waiting to leaf out again when the storm has been stilled. Of course, a direct attack on the root and trunk is still possible. If such an attack were mounted successfully, the great old oak would die; but it has not happened yet, and those of us who love the Church had better stand fast and make sure it does not. In the meantime, we must learn the faith and spread it.” *Revd Hugh Edsall, writing in The Living Church, November 6, 2005*

## Altar Guild Report

by Doreen Stanton

One of our long term members Margaret Wismer has retired. She will be much missed. Margaret was always a very quiet, almost secretive, worker but her work was always done well and when needed most. Another long term worker, Emily Sibbald, is recovering from a couple of bouts of illness and is finding the work increasingly difficult but she carries on. People like both of them are hard to find and we are striving to fill some very big shoes. That should not be taken to mean they had large feet; they were just great workers!

With the Christmas season busy schedule coming up, we'd be glad to hear of anyone who would like to join us.

You may notice the next time we use it, that the red frontal has new fringe. Thanks to Suan Seh Foo who found us an absolutely wonderful match for colours and a handsome fringe, the very old, almost non-existent fringe at the bottom is being replaced.

As I am sure everyone who comes to St. T's is aware, vestments are a big part of our heritage and unfortunately, no matter how carefully used and handled subject to wear and tear, which in turn demands mending and replacement. The best white set is now in need of almost total refurbishing (you may have noticed it is not being much used at the moment) and we are working hard to plan and have the work carried out. More news as we make headway on this important project.

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## Cameron Burns, Wycliffe Student, joins St Thomas's Family for academic year

The Reverend Mr Cameron Burns was born in Roxboro, Quebec, where he was baptized into the United Church. His family moved to Edmonton, where he has lived since he was 8. A keen student of the classical piano, after graduating from high school he attended community college, where he studied Recording Arts and Electronic Music Production, after which he worked as a freelance musician, music teacher, recording engineer, and live sound engineer.

When Mr Burns felt his calling to ordained ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada, he returned to school and studied theology at Taylor University College in Edmonton. He graduated with Distinction and was granted the degree of Bachelor of Arts (major in Religion and Theology, minor in Biblical Languages). He also became a postulant of the Diocese of Edmonton shortly before his graduation. During the last 18 months, Mr Burns has been in the Master of Divinity (honours) program at Wycliffe



The Revd Mr Cameron Burns, Seminarian at Saint Thomas's, with his fiancée Andrea

College. This fall, The Bishop of Edmonton ordered him Deacon in a service held at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, Toronto. He has been granted informal permission by the Diocese of Toronto to function as a Deacon at St. Thomas's during the academic year 2005-2006.

Mr Burns still enjoys music and performance, as well as reading, hiking, camping, scuba diving, cooking and tea. His fiancée, Andrea, is currently completing a degree in Psychology at the University of Alberta; their wedding is scheduled for August in Edmonton, after which the couple plans on returning to Toronto for his final year in Wycliffe College's M Div program.

## OUTREACH NEWS

### Christmas Eve dinner volunteers sought Klukach nominated to WCC Assembly in Brazil

by Liz Thoms

The Out of the Heat program continued in the parish hall until the end of November. It attracted about 60 guests each Friday for soup, sandwiches, and snacks to take away, and proved again to be an important social time for many of the guests.

The Out of the Cold Program started at the beginning of December and is being run from St. Stephen's as before. St. Thomas's will be providing hot meals once a month. Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, or provide food or donations. In addition we shall be hosting a Christmas Eve turkey dinner for the homeless in the parish hall. We are looking for volunteers and donations for this joyful occasion.

Guests at the meals greatly appreciate receiving new socks, underwear and toiletries from time to time. We need donations of all of them and durable food items.

The organizers of the Outreach program are extremely grateful to the dedicated volunteers and donors who support it so loyally.

Maggie Helwig represented the parish at a meeting with our MPP to discuss housing advocacy. Many other churches in the diocese are also involved in this initiative. Gene Stewart, Natasha Klukach, Maggie Helwig, Andrea Budgey and

Brian Bartley attended the annual Diocesan Outreach Conference at the beginning of October. Seminars at the conference ranged from housing advocacy and global outreach to youth outreach initiatives and working effectively with Members of Parliament.

The morning Masses on The Sunday Next Before Advent were devoted to Outreach, with a guest preacher and a poster fair supported by many groups associated with the church. This reflected part of the Diocese's particular focus on outreach during the year.

Natasha Klukach recently found that her nomination by the Bishop to represent the Anglican Church of Canada as a Steward at the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Brazil next Spring had been successful. The Anglican delegation includes the Primate; the former Primate; Alyson Barnett-Cowan; John Steele, a priest from BC; Jillian Harris, an aboriginal woman; and me and along with one other steward from Huron Diocese. Natasha hopes that her experiences will interest the Parish in this global ecumenical work simply from an educational standpoint.

*If you are able to contribute in any way please contact Maggie Helwig at or (416) 537.7290 or Natasha Klukach at or (416) 652.9662*

## Sobering News

The Anglican Church of Canada, one of the country's largest and oldest denominations, is in precipitous decline – losing 13,000 members each year and facing extinction by the middle of this century, says a new report prepared for the Church's bishops. Membership in the Anglican Church has fallen by 53% over the past 40 years and continues to drop by 2% a year, the steepest recorded decline of any mainstream Canadian church... the Anglican report, presented in October to a closed-door meeting of the Church's House of Bishops, was a "wake-up call" to Anglican leaders, few of whom understood the depth or seriousness of the problem, said Archbishop

Andrew Hutchison, the Anglican Primate of Canada... between 1961 and 2001, Anglican parish lists plunged from 1.36 million to 642,000, a decline of 53%. That decline is quickening. Membership fell by 13% from 1981 to 1991 and by a further 20% from 1991 to 2001. Membership in the United Church, meanwhile, fell from 1.04 million to 638,000 from 1961 to 2001, a loss of 39%. Most smaller churches are declining, too. Presbyterian membership fell by 35% in the same period. Baptist membership fell by 7%, and Lutheran membership by 4%.

*From an article in National Post, by Richard Foot, CanWest News Service, December 1, 2005*



Nigel Wright, recipient of  
2005 Tiffany Mark Award

## NIGEL WRIGHT HONOURED

### Receives Tiffany Mark Award – Saint T's benefits

October 26 found former Warden and active parishioner Nigel Wright receiving the 2005 Tiffany Mark Award at a gala cocktail reception at Tiffany's Toronto store on Bloor Street. The Award is named after the firm's Mark watch, and is presented annually to an individual making a "mark" both professionally and in the community by way of volunteer service to charities about which the recipient cares deeply. Nigel, a Managing Director of Onex Corporation, was honoured for his support of Camp Oochigeas, a summer camp for young Ontarians battling cancer, and of the Out of the Cold and Out of the Heat programmes at St Thomas's. At the cocktail party, Tiffany generously offered several watches in a raffle – and Nigel arranged for the Parish to receive one-half the proceeds, about \$1000. Congratulations, Nigel: we all feel very proud of the larger world's recognizing that generosity of spirit which has long characterized your association with Saint Thomas's!

## ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

The Advisory Board will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:15 pm on Tuesdays Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 4, May 9 and June 13

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**S**urely it is not the business of the Church to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ.  
*Dorothy L. Sayers*

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**A** Head of State who paid me a visit recently told me that his main concern was the widespread inability to make definitive decisions for fear of losing personal freedom. In fact, men and women become free when they bind themselves, when they find roots, for it is then that they can grow and mature. We must teach patience, discernment, realism, but without false compromises, so as not to water down the Gospel!  
*His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, address to the Bishops of Germany, August 20, 2005*

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**“**Those who appreciate the riches of our Anglican heritage, and who wish to remain in full fellowship with the livelier, healthier, growing parts of the Anglican world will...with God's help, seek Anglican renewal at every level – in faith, in spirituality, in holiness of life, in biblical literacy, in mission outreach, in proactive discipling – and will vigorously oppose whatever obstructs this. So help us God! Let us all pray and work, work and pray, for the fulfilling of this hope.”  
*Dr Jerry I. Packer, March 18, 2005.*

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**“**Shopping Christmas does have its red-nosed reindeers and singing chipmunks, but it also offers us bits of the Gospel story and much sacred music, live and recorded. Presents and cards we send and receive, and cheques made out to our favourite charities speak to us of love and giving. And so do the multitudes. Look at a busy sidewalk or crowded store and remember that is was love for each one of those people that moved the Word to become flesh and dwell among us. We can use thoughts like these to fuel our eagerness to meet the Lord at Church Christmas.”  
*Fr William, St Gregory's Abbey, Three Rivers, Michigan, quoted in Advent 2004 "Anglican Digest."*

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**“**God's Christmas present to us is his Word made flesh, his Son. It was misunderstood by Herod at the beginning, whose murderous intent for Christ was frustrated by God until Christ's hour came before Caesar in Christ's passion. It took a while, and a lot of agony, for Christ's disciples to realize what a gift they had been given. It often takes us quite a while, and some pain, to realize it as well. But if we stay with Christ, and give ourselves to him, and persevere to the end – as our patron Saint Thomas did – then we will reach Easter, and be able to confess (as Thomas did), My Lord and my God. What Saint John declared concerning the Word at the start will be ours, personally, at the finish.”  
*Fr Andrew C Mead, Rector, Saint Thomas Church New York City, preaching on Christmas Day, 2003.*

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*The Parish Clergy with many of the participants in the pre-Advent Retreat at the SSJD Convent*

## Pre-Advent Quiet Day at SSJD Convent

*by Carol Kysela*

The Parish Clergy led a pre-Advent Retreat, where some 18 St Thomasites spent a day of reflection on November 19th at the new Convent.

It isn't the easiest thing to write about. I was unprepared for the power of silence. I had not expected the light-filled, consistently well thought-out new facilities, nor the beauty and depth with which the old convent has been remembered in the new one.

Frs. Andrews, Freeland and Ross provided substantial reflections for our day. How can we link the stream of our daily consciousness in a natural way with a simple, inventive, and faithful prayer experience? What is spirituality, how do we encounter it or experience it, and why is it crucial and different in each of us? How do we use the Scriptures to nourish our spirit? Each of these reflections was surrounded by periods of

silence during which we found a wealth of meditation spaces available to us including the Convent's outdoor river stone labyrinth.

We shared the mid day Eucharist with the Sisters in their beautiful chapel so reminiscent to me of those stone Celtic oratories whose design is based on overturned boats, but this one was full of light and wheat-coloured wood. Our midday meal was taken with the Sisters in the silence common to Benedictine Orders, one more experience of the focus of this institution on the development of the inner life.

I am ashamed to admit my surprise at the deep competence with which our tradition is able to provide for the growth of the spirit that I met with during this day. This retreat closed the year for the Upper Room Program. We will certainly be scheduling at least one similar event during 2006.

## Saint Thomas's Church

### DIRECTORY

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#### E-mail:

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Rector [rector@stthomas.on.ca](mailto:rector@stthomas.on.ca)

Rector: Fr Mark Andrews (416) 345-8787

Rector Emeritus: Fr Roy A. Hoult

#### Assistant Priests:

Fr Brian D Freeland (416) 461-7025

& Fr Robert A Ross (416) 588-6946

#### Honorary Assistant Priests:

Frs James E. Hunt, A. Thomas Little,

W. David Neelands & Ian D. Nichols

#### Seminarian:

The Revd. Mr Cameron Burns

#### Layreaders:

Walter O. Hardacre & Mary Suddon

#### Churchwardens:

Charis Kelso (416) 590-7401

Gene Stewart (416) 961-4565

#### Deputy Churchwardens:

Jim MacMillan & Marlene Fader

#### Organist & Choirmaster:

John H. Tuttle (416) 516-2503

#### Parish Administrator

Church Office & Parish Hall Bookings:

Barbara A. O'brai (416) 979-2323

Financial Officer & Treasurer: Anna Kennedy

Bookkeeper: Greg Anderson

Church School Supervisor: Diana Verseggy

Nursery School Supervisor: Claire Fong

Web Master & Computer Consultant:

John Meadows [john@meadowsonline.com](mailto:john@meadowsonline.com)

Coordinator of Sidesmen and Sideswomen:

Suan Seh Foo (416) 928-6809

Verger: Jean-Paul Napier

## WORSHIP AT SAINT THOMAS'S

### SUNDAYS

Masses: 8:00 am (BCP, plain celebration);

9:30 am (BAS, Sung); 11:00 am (BCP,

Solemn High)

Mattins (said) 10:30 am – Solemn

Evensong & Devotions 7:00 pm

### WEEKDAYS

Masses: 5:30 pm Monday & Friday –

12:15 noon Tuesday & Thursday

7:30 am Wednesday, 10:00 am Saturday

Morning Prayer is said daily 8:30 am,

Saturday 9:30 am

Evening Prayer is said daily at 5:00 pm,

except Tuesday and Wednesday at

5:15 pm. Candelight Meditation follows

Evening Prayer on Wednesday.

Confessions: At times announced or by ap-  
pointment with any of the Parish Clergy

## PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

As you read of the diverse life of this church, it becomes clear that Saint Thomas's offers a host of ways for parishioners and friends to become more closely involved in the work of the Parish as well as of the many organizations which make their home here. Here are contacts who would welcome your inquiry and assistance. You can find them at mass, or leave a message at the Parish Office.

### ORGANIZATION/ACTIVITY

Acolytes Guild

Serving at the Altar

CD/ROM project

Loans of archival materials

Church School

Teaching, enrolment

Communications Committee

Confraternity of the

Blessed Sacrament

Daily Offices

Officiating, reading Lessons

Education Committee

Planning Parish teaching events

Parish Newsletter

Writing, production, delivery

Pastoral Committee

Support of parish community:

visiting, driving, encouraging

Property Management

Committee

Social Committee

Event planning and kitchen volunteers

The Society of Mary

### KEY CONTACTS

Jean-Paul Napier

(416) 532-2087

John Meadows:

[john@meadowsonline.com](mailto:john@meadowsonline.com)

Diana Verseggy: [diana.Verseggy@ec.gc.ca](mailto:diana.Verseggy@ec.gc.ca)

(416) 979-2323

Ann Welsh (416) 972-1930

[awc@interlog.com](mailto:awc@interlog.com)

Writers, copy-editors, proof-readers. Desk-top publishing and word processing support (need own computer and software) to assist in creating flyers and posters. Parishioners with media relations expertise and fax/internet access capability.

Fr Freeland

Any of the Parish Clergy (416) 979-2323

Carol Kysela (416) 461-9595

[mckys@idirect.com](mailto:mckys@idirect.com)

John Aimers (416) 975-2608

[john.aimers@sympatico.ca](mailto:john.aimers@sympatico.ca)

Pat Kennedy (416) 652-8566

[patricia\\_kennedy@sympatico.ca](mailto:patricia_kennedy@sympatico.ca)

Robert Kennedy (416) 691-7637

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Susan Clarke (416) 484-8164

Fr Ross, David O'Rourke

