



# THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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TRINITYTIDE 2005

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

## Newcomers' Lunch Welcomes 60 to Parish

by Pat Kennedy  
for the Pastoral Care Committee

Those attending the 11 am service on May Day, May 1, may have been puzzled to see a stream of parishioners leaving the church and heading into the Rectory, patting Molly and sidestepping her toys as they went.

The occasion was the first Newcomers' Luncheon put on by the recently formed Pastoral Care Committee. Although this had once been a regular event at St. Thomas's, there has been a gap of several years since the parish gathered to welcome a severely outnumbered *Tim Addis*. In that time, we are happy to report, a number of new members have arrived at the church – counting those who have transferred to the church, those who have joined the church through Confirmation, and those who have come to sing in our wonderful choir. To this number were added parishioners who have moved or changed their circumstances or their relationship with the church in the last few years.

When the invitation list was compiled, and the clergy, the corporation, and the staff were added, the numbers hovered between sixty and eighty. What a great reason to throw a really big party!

On the day, invitees, summoned by *Laurie Holmes'* attractive invitations, gathered first in the rectory for sherry, wine, cheese, and crackers. Here, many were surprised to see that the veteran parish-



ioners, who had been sitting in the pew ahead of them when they first came to the church, were themselves relative newcomers and reserve crumbled. This was, of course, part of the idea.

Then it was on to the parish hall for a buffet luncheon. Even The Rector's optimism had not been able to embrace the idea of serving a buffet lunch for 80 in the Rectory!. Gathered around ten tables, beautifully decorated by *Lindsay Squire*, the guests had a chance to mingle, talk further, and hear about opportunities for getting more involved in the parish. "Old-timer" newcomers, such as *Costa and Myra Placonouris* and *Liz and Bill Thoms*, who have thrown themselves with admirable enthusiasm into the life of the parish, were recruited to spread the good word about the joys of volunteering.

The buffet featured a delicious chicken casserole (with vegetarian option),

which *Marilyn Ramsingh* learned to make at her mother's knee (or, more accurately, her mother's bridge table). After many mathematical calculations and much holding of breath, the casserole proved it could be stretched to feed a very large bridge club. *Charis Kelso* presided at the aptly named Sundae Bar, ladling out Greg's ice cream – with toppings. Some made a number of visits (names withheld).

Meanwhile, *Linda Russell*, the parish photographer, finding so many people in one place, seized the opportunity. In Linda's Photo Booth, she snapped our new members for the Parish Photo Record Books (which can be seen at the Hospitality Table in the Parish Hall).

Many attendees have since confirmed that they felt just what had been intended – a warm welcome into the parish family.

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## From the Parish Register

### Baptisms

Seeing now... these persons are regenerate and grafted into the Body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits, and with one accord make our prayers unto Him, that they may lead the rest of their life according to this beginning.

Susannah Gill (adult) ~ Miranda Reichenbach (age 10 months)

### Weddings

Those whom God hath joined together let no one put asunder.

Patrick Cain & Catharine Tunnacliffe ~ February 5, 2005

Anthony Dale & Diane Simpson ~ May 7, 2005

### Banns of Marriage Published

Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband...?

Wendy Hanson of Stratford & Bruce McEachern of St Thomas's, to be married June 11, 2005

### Burials

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Christina McCall ~ April 29, 2005  
Grace Falls ~ May 13, 2005

## THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Barbara Obrai, Parish Secretary.

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## Lunch...

*continued from page one*

NOTE: We are planning another luncheon now, to which will be invited those who could not attend on May 1. To these will be added anyone who has joined the parish in the interim, and those who, to



Susannah Gill, baptized by the Primate at Easter Vigil

## University News

Two Saint Thomas's parishioners are being honoured by the University of Toronto this year. **Stephen Waddams** has been elevated to the rank of University Professor, which is the highest honour the University accords its faculty. Professor Waddams occupies the Goodman/Schipper Chair at the Faculty of Law. In the autumn **John Tuttle** will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters by Trinity College for his contribution to Church music.

The Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College has launched a five year capital campaign. The *Faith in Divinity* campaign has a goal of three million dollars in order to endow the position of Dean of Divinity, (held by **Father David Neelands**), as well as to establish other named and endowed professorships within the faculty. For more information or to support this worthy Campaign please contact the Divinity Office at (416) 978-0407.



After two years as the Parish's Seminarian, The Revd Mr Chris Harper with his wife Tracey cut farewell cake at Coffee Hour on May 8 as they bid farewell to Saint Thomas's and prepared to return to Saskatchewan

our horror, were inadvertently missed (yes, we made a few mistakes – when asked to explain himself, the rector blamed it on human frailty). If you know anyone who falls into any of these categories, please let Fr. Andrews or a member of the committee know.

**Pastoral Care Committee:** The Rector and Phyllis Garden, Laurie Holmes, Fr. Jim Hunt, Charis Kelso, Pat Kennedy (chair), Margaret Little, Carolyn Lund-Mead, Marilyn Ramsingh, Linda Russell, Ann Welsh. (Resource Volunteers: Fr. Brian Freeland, Walter Hardacre, David and Margo Kent, Barbara Obrai)

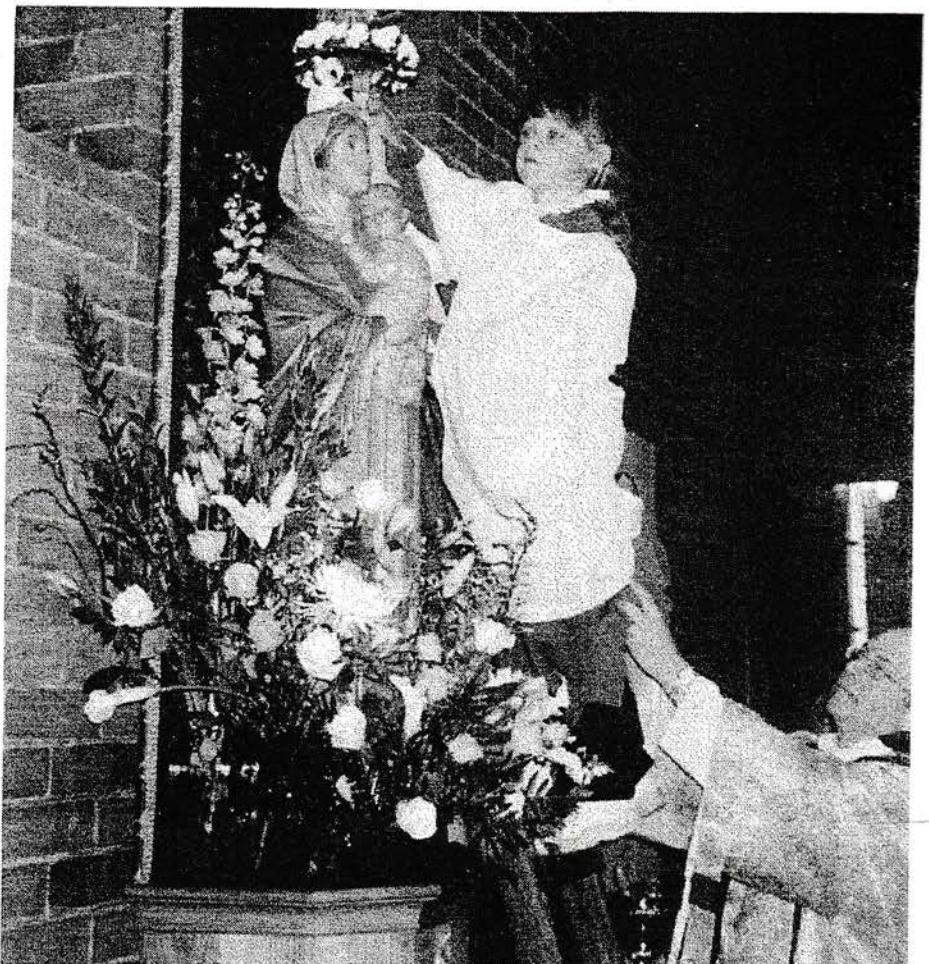
# Reflections on the May Festival of Our Lady

By Fr Robert Ross, Chaplain, Society of Mary (Ward of Our Lady of Hope)

As I write this, I have just returned from the last of three special liturgies celebrated on Saturday mornings during the month of May, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I'm not sure how long the custom of the "May Festival" has existed in the "downtown, Catholic" parishes of the Diocese of Toronto – although my own experience of it goes back to my student days (about 27 years). And, while the festival has involved the participation of a number of different parishes over the years, there seems now to be a regular pattern: first Saturday of May at St Matthias', Belwoods; second Saturday at St Thomas's, Huron Street; third Saturday (if it is not the Victoria Day weekend, as it was this year) usually at St Bartholomew's, Dundas Street; and the grand finale at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, with its outdoor procession (still led by mounted city police, except that nowadays they are mounted on bicycles rather than horses!).

Where did the May Festival originate? The Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century as a way of "Christianizing" some secular feasts. It returned, as far as I know, to the Anglican Church in the early 20th century, during the great "Anglo-catholic" liturgical revival.

For me, one of the greatest joys of the May Festival is that each of the parishes represents a different "slice" of the Anglo-Catholic liturgical tradition: for example, St Matthias celebrates a beautiful and dignified, but also pleasantly "folksy," High Mass according to the *Book of Alternative Services* rite; St Thomas's has a kind over-the-top "Merrily, On High" quality to its celebration (and, of course, a "button popping, belt-loosening" feast following the mass, courtesy of John Gardham and his crew!); St Barth's offers a kind of counterpoint to St Thomas's, offering a simple BCP mass with hymns; and, of course, there is St Mary Mag's... Suffice to say, it wouldn't be May without the wonderful outdoor procession (never, in my experience, "rained out"), with the neighbours – from open-mouthed yuppies to genuflecting Portuguese grandmothers – watching the motley



Katherine Aaltonen crowns the Lady Statue at May Festival Mass

crew of sacred ministers, servers, statue-bearers, and congregants "belt out" (accompanied by clarinet as well as the "basso-armeniano" voice of Fr Harold Nahabedian) the likes of "Immaculate Mary, thy praises we sing!" as they troop around the block. It's rather like a scene out of the movie "Ghostbusters"!

It always seems a pity to me that more parishioners from St Thomas's do not attend the May Festival celebrations, even if only to experience that "wonderful, multi-cultural matrix" of which we Anglo-Catholics are a part in this amazing city. Of course, it would also be nice if people came to the May festival because they believed that a natural implication of faith in Jesus Christ involves devotion to his blessed mother. But, sadly, devotion to Mary is still a source of division amongst Anglicans, even those who consider themselves Catholic Anglicans.

~ ~ ~

As Fr John Whittall pointed out in his homily at St Thomas's, the May Festival is meant to be fun. However, the deeper issue that the May festival brings into focus for me is the role of Mary in the Church and, really, the nature of the Church itself. (Interestingly, the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission has just produced an agreed statement on Mary's role in the Church, which we may be able, as a parish, to study sometime in the future).

I believe Mary has much to say to the Church – especially the Anglican Church – at this point in history. I know that not everyone would agree with me – so what else is new? But I would ask those who find devotion to Mary puzzling, or even offensive, to at least open themselves to the possibility that there is more to Marian devotion than simply matters of liturgical or ornamental taste.

*continued on the next page*

## May Festival...

*continued from the previous page*

So let's cut to the chase. Why does Catholic Christianity make such a "fuss" over Mary? While it would take many pages to give a full explanation, I think it enough to say that it has something to do with the sacramental "core" that is at the centre of the Catholic (and not just Roman Catholics) understanding of reality. For just as we believe that the Eucharist is not a mere "visual aid" to Holy Scripture, but the living presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, we also believe that Mary is not merely a passive historical figure, but a living human being who still intercedes with her son on behalf of all humanity, especially for those who are suffering. And, while Catholic theology teaches unequivocally that Christ is the sole mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2.5), "there is nothing to prevent others in a certain way from being called mediators between God and humanity" (cf. *Catholic Encyclopaedia*, "Mary"). Mary, through her proto-typical faithfulness and openness to God's plan of salvation is uniquely qualified for this role of "secondary mediatrix". One might legitimately ask: Can we not "access" Christ directly, without "accessing" his mother? Of course, we can. But to the Catholic Christian, it is an unnecessary question, since we do not see ourselves as having a sort of "direct line" to Christ or God; rather, we see ourselves (through our baptism) as being "in communion" with all the faithful, living and departed, who are all part of the Body of Christ.

Why would we not, therefore, call on Mary, to ask for her prayers and intercessions? Did she not know Jesus better than anyone else in history? She, like us, is in need of redemption and salvation; indeed, it is her very humanity, her suffering, her attempt to understand the mystery of her son, which makes her our sister and our mother. She felt, more than any of us can, an intimacy to her son – but also, more than any of us could, a separation, a necessary "letting go" of her son. What mother has not felt this for a child? The child, who once was totally dependent upon the mother, is still a mystery, a unique human being. There is compelling evidence in Holy Scripture that Mary simply could not understand her son (in Mark's gospel, Jesus' family would seem to want to have

him committed to a mental hospital); surely, when her son was crucified she was tempted to despair; yet, even in the face of her son's apparent destruction, she continues to have faith in God's promises: "Be it unto me, according to thy word."

It is easy for "progressive" Christians to write off Marian devotion either as hopelessly anachronistic or as simply inappropriate for modern culture. But not all "progressive" thinkers in the Church are willing to do this. In fact, some see a renewed study of Mary as the means to a much richer understanding of the Church. Roman Catholic theologian Tina Beattie believes that a renewed study of Mary can give the Church a new understanding of ministerial priesthood which "does not lie in a liberal democratic model of Church... nor in an androgynous model of priesthood that incorporates women into existing structures [but] rather [in] a new appreciation of sacramentality that can grasp the enormous significance of God mediated to humanity through the material realities of the created world, and supremely through the image of God." (Tina Beattie, 1996, "Mary, the Virgin Priest, *The Month*, 257: 485-93).

Beattie, quoting theologian Tissa Balasuriva, goes on to say that "a well-developed Mariology can be one of the best supports for the causes of equality of women and men in the Church at all levels" (Beattie, 1996). She then goes on to quote the late Pope John Paul II, who has wrote in an encyclical letter that Mary is present in every celebration of the Eucharist: "Every Mass puts us into intimate communion with her, the Mother, whose sacrifice 'becomes present' just as the sacrifice of her Son 'becomes present' at the words of consecration of the bread and wine pronounced by the priest" (Beattie, 1996). Beattie argues that this understanding of the Eucharist actually supports a theology which "makes the exclusion of women from the priesthood indefensible on symbolic grounds" since "Catholic Christianity offers a richly gendered symbolism which neither obliterates sexual difference nor locks the believer into a rigidly pre-determined biological destiny" (Beattie, 1996).

My purpose here is not to promote one or another point of view of the place of women in the Church, but simply to point out that Mary should be of interest

not only to so-called "conservatives" but also to those of us who would like the Church to be more "progressive" (i.e., to recognize legitimate doctrinal development as part of an openness to the Spirit).

The danger here is, of course, that we can "use" Mary – just as we sometimes (often?) "use" Holy Scripture – as a "weapon" to bolster our prejudices, rather than seeing and accepting her as a "gift". In fact, it is those of simple faith – the poor and the powerless of the world – who are most likely to recognize the friendship which Mary offers. Mary was a simple, poor, uneducated woman, called by God to do something that was beyond her comprehension. Yet her response, "Be it unto me according to thy word", is the response of faith which we too struggle to offer to God. Her response is important, for it shows us that it is precisely in our poverty as human beings that we encounter God; and that it is through *our* response, in faith, that God acts in the world. But just as important as Mary's response is that fact that she actually *heard* the word of God. I believe that we in the Anglican Church, at this point in our history, clearly need to learn how to *listen* in silence, rather than giving ultimatums or threatening excommunication. If we can learn the difficult art of really trying to listen to each other and to God, we may, like Mary, become open to the surprising and on-going work of the Holy Spirit.

So Mary has much to teach us. She can teach us to accept the mystery and paradox of faith, rather than seeking easy answers; she can teach us to "let go" – to give up our need to micro-manage our lives and our Church; she can teach us to look at the crucified of our world and see in them God's promise. But she is more than simply an example for us. I believe that she prays for each and every one of us, both in our joys and in our sorrows. I believe that she is especially present with the poor and suffering people of the world; those who suffer from AIDS, those who are persecuted, those who are victims of racism, sexism, and homophobia, those who are hungry, those who are despised, those who are prisoners of conscience, those who yearn for God's kingdom of righteousness and justice. She is present for us. As Christ is our Lord and our brother, she is now our sister and our mother – who loves and cares for all the children of Eve.

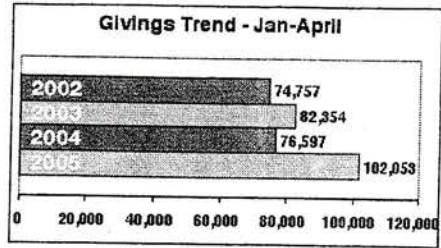
# St. Thomas's Parishioners Rallying to Reduce Deficit

## Givings up substantially, costs under control

by Tim Wright with assistance from Anna Kennedy

For the first four months of this year, envelope and open plate givings for the Operating Fund have increased a gratifying 33% over the same period last year. Through April of this year, envelope givings were \$96,067, including \$5,468 of "Special Challenge" donations earmarked for deficit reduction. This result compares to \$71,821 a year ago. NB: the \$102,053 reported in the charts below

includes cash donations as well. As expenses are essentially in line with last year, this gain translates into a substantial improvement in operating income. As shown in the "Jan - April 2005 Results", we are 55% ahead of budget in terms of deficit reduction, and are well on our way to achieve a balanced budget in 2005. It is wonderful to be able to report a substantial increase in the number of envelope givers: 14 more than last year's 181. As noted in the weekly



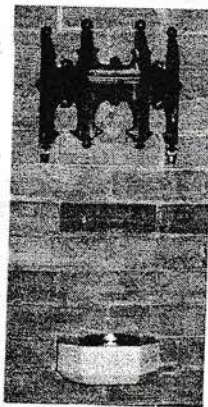
leaflet, currently the special challenge donations are well over \$6,000 or over 50% of the goal. Well done!

However, we must be mindful to maintain our givings in order to sustain this momentum, especially as we move into the summer season when we often tend not to be as regular in our givings

## Holy Water Stoups Installed in Church

by The Rector

A new addition to the fabric of Saint Thomas's was introduced at Easter this year when three beautiful Holy Water Stoups were placed at each of the entrances to the church. They are slightly smaller copies of the Piscina found in the Sanctuary. The Stoups were given anonymously by a parishioner, and were blessed by Archbishop Hutchison following the baptism at the Easter Vigil.



One of three Holy Water Stoups donated to the Parish

(blessed by a separate prayer), is added. It is used for blessings, dedications, and also at burials.

It is thought that the use of Holy Water developed from an early practice of washing hands and faces upon entering the Church. Old Basilicas had fountains in the atrium for that purpose, and Stoups probably derived from them. There are many fine examples of Holy Water Stoups in pre-Reformation English churches, the oldest dating to Norman times.

Like ours, most tend to be made of stone.

Many people cross themselves with Holy Water when entering Church as a reminder of their baptism with water and the Holy Spirit. Making the sign of the Cross with water is a physical representation of the Collect for Purity with which we begin our worship: *Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit.*

Some of the faithful also cross themselves with Holy Water when leaving Church as a reminder that the same Spirit Who lifts our hearts and minds to God in prayer also inspires and encourages us to transform the kingdoms of this world into the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Grant us Lord, that as we leave Thy Church we leave not Thy Presence, but show forth Thy Glory in the world.*

The use of water in the Church for purposes other than Baptism has been part of the Christian tradition since the 4th Century. Holy Water is blessed by a priest in the name of the Church and a small quantity of salt,



The Rector fills the Narthex Stoup prior to its being blessed on Holy Saturday

29 PAG Donors: 9 Credit Card, 19 Bank Acct (EFTs) and 1 both methods (up from 24 last year)

Total Envelope Givers including PAGs: 195 vs. 181 in 2004

Average giving for January through April: \$490 (vs. \$360 in 2004)

and attendance. Let's keep up our efforts. This, of course, is when pre-authorized giving, or PAG, can be a boon. We would ask anyone not currently using this option to consider it.

As we move into the fall, we have another golden opportunity to both achieve the special challenge and get to know each other better through the "Dine Away the Deficit" initiative. Strong support for this initiative will go a long way to meet our goal.

Jan - April 2005	Actuals	Budget
Congregational Givings	\$102,053	\$ 81,690
Rentals	\$ 11,137	\$ 11,651
Other	\$ 9,314	\$ 9,617
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$122,504</b>	<b>\$102,958</b>
Operations	\$ 13,114	\$ 14,296
Outreach	\$ 25,467	\$ 25,052
Property	\$ 35,417	\$ 35,645
Staffing	\$ 76,352	\$ 76,787
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$150,350</b>	<b>\$151,780</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$(27,846)</b>	<b>\$(48,822)</b>
Transfer from T&E	\$ 14,990	\$ 20,000
<b>Income after Transfer</b>	<b>\$(12,856)</b>	<b>\$(28,822)</b>

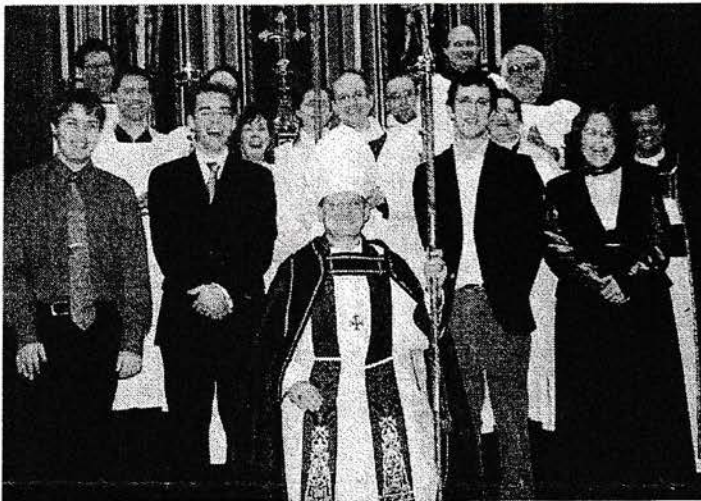
# Future of Anglican Communion

by Jeffrey Creighton

What is the future of the Anglican Communion? This was the subject addressed by the Rt. Rev'd David Hamid at an adult education event on Pentecost, May 15. Bishop Hamid is a Canadian who formerly served as a priest in the diocese of Niagara and as ecumenical officer of the Anglican Consultative Council, and is now Suffragan Bishop of Europe, a growing and increasingly multicultural diocese which he describes as "the Anglican Communion in miniature".

The presenting issues of the current crisis are well known, and centre mainly on differing views of human sexuality. But Bishop Hamid pointed to a number of other fault-lines: the push in the Diocese of Sydney to allow lay people to preside at the Eucharist, which challenges basic Anglican principles of church order; and the ordination of women in some provinces but not others, which means that as a Communion we no longer have an interchangeable ministry. As for the Communion's four "instruments of unity" (the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates' Meeting) all but the first are modern, and are essentially experiments. Our understanding of the roles of these instruments is so inchoate

that the Primates' Meeting (newest and most experimental of the "instruments") recently requested that Canada and the United States withdraw their members from the ACC (the only instrument with a constitution and lay participation). It is clear that, as a Communion, we have yet to deal coherently with the theological principles of authority and unity, and how these are to be embodied in our



The Lord Bishop of Toronto and parishioners he Confirmed and Received into the Church during his Lenten Visitation, together with some of the Parish Clergy and acolytes

structures. Meanwhile, our attempts to deal with complex problems in a reflective and nuanced way is constantly sabotaged by the speed of contemporary communication and the dominance of the sound-byte. There are three elements in the life of the Church to which we

need to pay more attention: Tradition, synodality, and space for theological reflection.

**Tradition.** Some Anglicans in their search for authority have turned to a "fundamentalist" (but still selective) approach to Scripture. At the other extreme, some have argued that the rejection of all authority is central to Anglican identity. But authority, properly understood, is simply what keeps us faithful to God, the "author" of all. For Christians, this authority is mediated through the Tradition of the Church, which is the Gospel, handed down from generation to generation by the whole people of God. Scripture, knitted into the fabric of the Church itself, is the unique, normative and authentic guide to that Tradition.

**Synodality.** We also need to recover a sense of synodality ("walking together") in our common life. The Eucharist is the supreme sign of this synodality, and we need a eucharistic synodality (rather than a "parliamentary" and adversarial one) in our meetings. Like the Eucharist, our decision-making bodies should give a role to all orders (bishops, priests, deacons and laity). Gatherings of bishops (like Lambeth and the Primates' Meeting) are an aberration in the life of the Church, and are not the way forward.

**Reflection.** There is a time for authoritative teaching, and a time for theological reflection. The latter needs space to develop, not snap decisions and sound-bites. There must be a process for sifting the results of theological exploration, but in the area of human sexuality we're simply not there yet. To pretend that we are only multiplies confusion.

While our current problems may seem intractable, Bishop Hamid reminded us that the Christian Church has faced even more difficult and divisive issues, particularly in the trinitarian and christological controversies of the early centuries. If it was possible for the early Church to find a way forward, it must be possible for us.

*The St. Thomas Poetry Series*

**JOHN REIBETANZ  
POETRY READING**

**Thursday, June 9 at 8:00 pm**

**Reading in Church – Reception follows in Parish Hall**

*Funded by the League of Canadian Poets  
and the Toronto Arts Council*

# June 15 Choir Dinner

## Fundraiser for English Cathedral Singing Tour

by Tom Agnew

On Wednesday 15th June the parish choirs are presenting a "Choir Dinner", to be held in the Parish Hall. This will be one of the final fundraising events being held by the combined choirs in preparation for the Parish Tour to England.

Once again the many and varied talents of several members of the choirs are being put to good use! None the least of which is our 'guest' Chef for the evening, *David Roth*. David is the bass section lead on Decani in the morning choir. His experience in the culinary world is already quite extensive despite his young age. He has served his time at George Brown College and worked in a number of city restaurants, the last of which was Teatro on College St. David. Like many others taking part at this event, David is donating his expertise and time free of charge. He will be ably assisted in the kitchen by *John Gardham* (Acolyte) and *James Tuttle* (tenor section lead on Cantoris-morning choir) along with *Michael Roth*, younger brother of David who also sings in the decani bass section-morning choir.

Moving out of the kitchen, the 'wait' staff will be made up of "specially" chosen choristers. The dinner is a four-

course ensemble put together by Chef Roth and will read as follows:

**Baby organic greens with lemon and olive oil vinaigrette**

**Puréed butternut squash soup**

**Cornmeal crusted suprême of chicken with marsala scented jus served with wild mushroom risotto with truffle oil drizzle and reggiano cheese and ratatouille.**

**Chocolate mousse with white chocolate shavings and fresh berries**

For those dinner guests who would prefer an alternative, a vegetarian dish will be available.

During the evening, dinner music will be provided on the piano by *Tom Agnew* (tenor section lead on Decani-morning choir). Tom will be playing on an instrument, which he was able to encourage Robert Lowrey piano Experts (943 Eglinton Ave. East Tel. 416 423-0434) kindly to donate in support of the evening's proceedings.

This piano will also be used for a very special guest presentation during the evening. *Mary Lou Fallis*, soprano, teacher, comedian, and writer will be performing along with *Peter Tiefenbach* at the piano. Both are members of the Even-

ing song choir. They are both well known in their own rights, but as a duo they first performed together in 1997. Highlights of their collaboration include successful Toronto runs of her shows *Primadonna* and *Primadonna Does Shakespeare* (2002). In addition to his collaboration with Mary Lou (Louise), Peter enjoys a multi-faceted career as a performer, composer and broadcaster, indeed a familiar presence on CBC Radio. Both artists have graciously consented to donate their services free in order to help raise funds for the Parish England trip.

Dinner cost will be \$40.00 per person. There will be a cash bar during the evening. *Rodney Jackson* and *Tom Agnew* have donated centre floral arrangements on each table. These are known as everlasting arrangements; in other words they eventually become a dried flower arrangement. They are available at \$20.00 each for those guests who would like to take one home. The funds from the sale of these arrangements will go towards the cost of the trip to England.

Of course, during the evening the choir CD and the Parish DVD will be available for purchase, along with orders for vest/golf shirt/baseball cap wear.

Come and enjoy a unique Parish evening, good food, good fun and great entertainment.

**Tickets and information (416) 709-3602.**

## Educating for Outreach

by Liz Thoms

The Homelessness Action Group sponsored a workshop, "Homelessness 101" on March 6 at Calvin Presbyterian Church. It educated the participants on the implications of and issues surrounding homelessness and offered ideas for engaging in advocacy work. *Liz and Bill Thoms* attended the workshop on behalf of the St Thomas's Outreach Committee.

Toronto is in crisis for a number of reasons, not least because unemployment has risen, manufacturing jobs have decreased, income assistance programs are in decline and government housing programs are criticized as inadequate. More households are on the Toronto Community Housing Corporation waiting list (65,000) than are in TCHC housing (57,500). There is also a rental housing scarcity for low-income families because building affordable rental housing (no

more than 30% of household income) is not profitable for private developers without government subsidies, while at the same time there is a loss of cheaper housing due to demolition and conversion to more expensive accommodation.

*Kathy Hardill*, a street nurse for 17 years, spoke to the workshop about the health implications of homelessness. Homelessness is a health crisis. Homeless men between the ages of 25-44 have four times and homeless women between the ages of 18 and 44 have 10 times the mortality rate of the general population. 40% of the homeless population has dormant TB. The disease has become active again in the shelters, causing deaths. It is impossible to trace where TB is transmitted among the homeless and from them to the general population. *Kathy* stressed that most



Outreach Committee members Bill & Liz Thoms

homeless people would prefer to have supportive housing.

Her view was backed up by the "Dream Team" from the Boards of Mental Health Housing Services. They campaigned to get housing units for people with mental health issues. They spoke movingly of their struggles and their success in leading functional lives with the support of decent housing. It became obvious at the workshop that while all levels of government are involved in providing for the homeless, much more needs to be done.

Saint Thomas's commitment to the Out of the Cold/Heat programs to support the marginally housed and homeless as part of our outreach work is very necessary and much appreciated by our guests.

*The Homelessness Action Group meets every month at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, phone 416.656.1326, www.homelessness.on.ca.*

# Outreach: Increasing Service to Meet Increasing Needs

## St Thomas's embraces new season of Out of the Heat

by Natasha Klukach

The parish continues to respond to the needs of the community through our outreach work. The final two Out of the Cold meals for the season were served on April 22nd and 29th at St Stephen-in-the-Fields church. Volunteers were taken by surprise at the increased numbers of guests at the meals. On April 22nd we served approximately 130 people, over double the usual number of guests, and on April 29th we served about 75. Part of the reason for the increased numbers seems to be that some of the other Out of the Cold programs around the city closed at the end of March. Although it was a struggle to meet the demand, we were able to do so with the help of dedicated volunteers and additional donated food from parishioners. We are very grateful for all the support received through the Out of the Cold season.

On May 5th, Ascension Day, the Outreach Committee launched its Out of the Heat program for the year. This program was started to help bridge the gap in assistance when the Out of the Cold programs cease each year. Now serving approximately 50-60 people weekly on Friday evenings, we provide a simple meal of sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, cheese, dessert and water. Since last year we have been serving the meal in the hall, and guests and volunteers have worked to create a welcoming environment where people can visit with each other and, more often than not, enjoy musical entertainment provided by one of our guests! Our Friday meals really do represent a community gathering, and for this reason are seen as unique among the meal programs in the city. We have been very pleased to welcome several new volunteers from the parish so far this year. The Ascension Day launch also helped us

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“The Church has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to complete the work of Christ in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.”  
Fr William Willoughby III, Rector, Church of St Paul the Apostle, Savannah, Georgia

with securing some donations of sandwiches and other food needed each week for which we are very grateful. We ask that parishioners continue to consider how they might help by donating time, food and other items or money to help sustain the program through the end of the fall. For more information on what is needed each week, please speak with Maggie Helwig.

The Outreach Committee has also been working on finding ways to help the guests of our meal programs with other necessities. In particular we have discerned a need for basic toiletry items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, razors and lotion, basic first aid items including bandaids and antiseptic ointment, and socks and underwear. Laurie Holmes and Martin Reinink have been working to secure donations of such items and since the commencement of the Out of the Heat program we have been making these available to our guests. As these are so greatly needed and appreciated we will continue to seek corporate donors as well as individual donations.

The outreach work of the parish does not only include the sharing of resources with those in need. In coming to know our guests and the struggles many of them face, we realize that our call to help those who have been marginalized by society involves learning more about the issues of homelessness, poverty, mental health and health care needs, and discerning ways that we can help to advocate for systemic change. Working with the Education Committee, we hope to be able to feature events and speakers to increase our awareness of social injustice and how we might individually and collectively respond in faith to the great needs in our community. Planning has just started on ideas for 2006.

Making connections with the diocese and with other churches in the area is also important as a way of learning and making connections that can help those we desire to serve. Natasha Klukach has been part of the planning committee for the Annual Outreach Conference for the

diocese. This one-day conference will feature seminars on a wide range of outreach issues and will allow an opportunity to hear about and learn from other parishes' work. We are also connecting with the diocesan advocacy work on affordable housing issues. Maggie Helwig will be the parish contact for the campaign.

Natasha is also attending meetings of the KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives) Central Toronto Committee. KAIROS works locally, nationally and globally as a coalition of churches to promote justice issues. The Central Toronto group includes members from Bloor Street United Church, Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, Bathurst United Church, St George's Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Anglican Church. This connection helps us stay informed about other local churches' outreach and justice work.

If you would like to know more about outreach at St Thomas's, please speak with Maggie Helwig or Natasha Klukach or any member of the Outreach Committee. We meet as a committee about every two months and always welcome new members to join us.

## Mark Your Calendars

The Annual Diocesan Outreach Conference will be held on October 1st, 2005 at Tyndale University College and Seminary. The theme is "Bread for the Journey" and the keynote speaker will be The Rev. Paul Hansen. Full details and registration are now available on the conference website: [www.sjab-toronto.org](http://www.sjab-toronto.org).



Some of the parishioners who gathered at the Rectory on Lenten Monday evenings for study of St John's Gospel



# Parishioner Serves as Youth Synod Chancellor

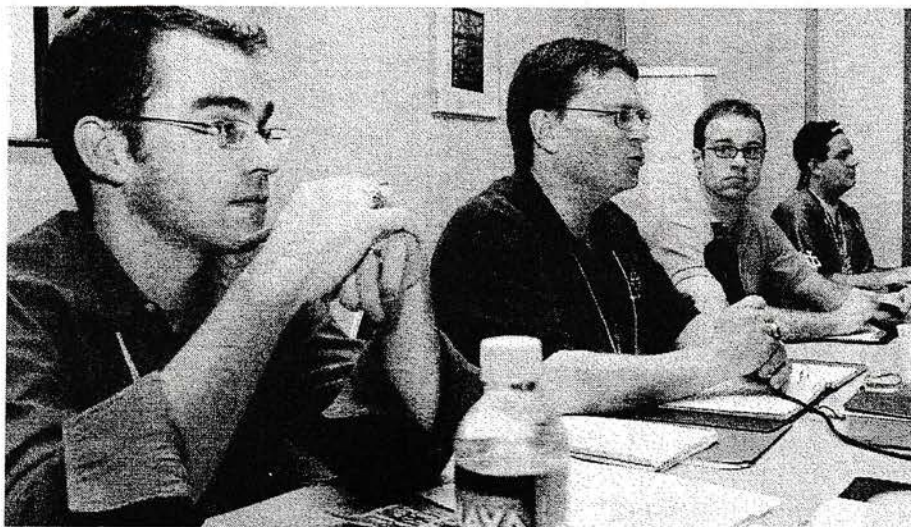
Report by Kevin D. Toyne

Approximately 120 youth ranging in ages from 13 to 32 came from 47 parishes to attend the Diocesan Youth Synod this past April. I was honoured to have been asked to serve as the Chancellor for this terrific event. The Diocesan Chancellor is a lawyer who provides legal and procedural advice to the Bishop and Diocese and I did my best to fill such a role for the weekend. Over the course of this fantastic weekend young Anglicans from across our diocese developed new friendships, debated weighty issues facing our Communion and our society and discussed with other young Anglicans what being an Anglican means in today's world.

Diocesan Synod can be an intimidating institution for those young Anglicans

## Toronto Masque Theatre's First Season

Toronto Masque Theatre completed its first complete season with performances of Henry Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* in the last week of April at Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto and the River Run Centre in Guelph. The 2005-06 season includes Handel's *Acis and Galatea* on Nov. 16-17, a Valentine's program combining old and new musical and poetic expressions of love on Feb 10-12 and the next installment in our Purcell Cycle, *Dioclesian*, in the middle of May. Subscriptions are now available. In addition, plans are afoot to resurrect our Critical Mass outreach project to raise funds for the homeless in Toronto. Tentatively, we are looking at scheduling one concert a month on Saturday afternoons here at St. Thomas's. More information will follow. As many of you know, TMT has its office at St. Thomas's. We are grateful for the tremendous support and encouragement that the church and its members has offered and continues to offer us as we negotiate our way through our infancy! For more information on the company, buying tickets, or becoming involved, please contact Larry Beckwith at 416-778-4923 [torontomasquetheatre@sympatico.ca](mailto:torontomasquetheatre@sympatico.ca)



Youth Synod Chancellor Kevin Toyne with Bishop Colin Johnson (rt)

selected to participate, and one of the goals of the Youth Synod was to give these future leaders of our church an opportunity to become familiar with how Diocesan Synod operates, both as an institution and within the broader context of the Anglican Church of Canada. On Friday evening, an introduction to Synod procedure was held. Delegates learned how *Robert's Rules of Order* work (or sometimes don't work) to allow as many voices to be heard as possible. I had the opportunity to lighten the mood when I was asked whether it was appropriate to applaud a speaker after they have concluded their remarks. I informed the young delegate that since Anglicans should refrain from showing emotion in public, Bishop Colin would disapprove of clapping!

On Saturday, Bible study was followed by a full session of Youth Synod. Delegates spent several hours discussing important issues such as child poverty, youth violence and the debates over sexuality in the Communion. A play, "Danny, King of the Basement", was performed by the Roseneath Theatre Company that helped the delegates focus their thoughts and feelings for the debates to come with respect to child poverty. Bishop Colin chaired the Youth Synod and I was pleased to be able to assist him with various points of procedure. However, Bishop Colin reminded the delegates (and the Chancellor) that the Chancellor was out of order when he encouraged a round of applause for himself.

Point well taken! I was amazed at the level of debate that occurred on difficult issues with passionate feelings on all sides. I am proud to have witnessed such a dignified and respectful debate.

Following the debates, Bishop Colin held a town hall session that gave the delegates an opportunity to engage with him in a dialogue about the future of our church and the role young Anglicans can play. The entire College of Bishops then held small group meetings with the delegates to continue this dialogue. The many organizers of this event, such as Simon Chambers and Matthew McMillan, deserve many thanks for their hard work and dedication to young Anglicans. There is much more to be said about Youth Synod and I would be pleased to discuss it with those interested. Several of the resolutions passed by the youth delegates are to be taken to Diocesan Synod this fall for further debate. The delegates from Youth Synod who will be attending Diocesan Synod are energized and looking forward to representing the voice of young Anglicans.

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“As Anglicans, we have always prided ourselves on our diversity but it has never been a diversity of fundamental morality and essential doctrine. We can not embrace every position and still hold our unity in Christ.”

*From a sermon preached by  
The Revd Brett Cane, Rector, St Aidan's  
Anglican Church, Winnipeg, Feb. 14, 2005.*

# Property Committee Launches Visioning Process for Future Improvements

by Ann Welsh with the assistance of Janet Stewart

At the St. Thomas's Advisory Board meeting on May 10, 2005 the Property Committee, under the leadership of Committee Chair Rob Kennedy and property committee member (and architect) Janet Stewart, launched a process to create a "Vision Master Plan" for St. Thomas's Church. The objective of this Master Plan is to identify the kind of spaces we need and improvements we need to make in order to support our current and future worship, music, Christian education, outreach and social programs

*"St. Thomas's is blessed with a lot of space but we aren't making the best use of it," says Janet. "Once we have a vision of what our parishioners want, we can plan and budget to redefine that space in a way that makes the best of use of our parishioners' time, talents and money. This could involve a wide range of potential activities – from re-decoration, to renovation, to new construction."*

Developing the Visioning Master Plan will be accomplished in three steps:  
*Step 1: Obtaining ideas from St. Thomas's parishioners and friends.*

All St. Thomas's parishioners will have the opportunity to give their ideas and suggestions in support of the Master Plan. Janet has developed a discussion outline to help generate parishioners' ideas. The members of the Advisory Board pilot tested it at the May meeting. The discussion covered topics such as maintenance, accessibility, and what



Parish Photographer Linda Russell celebrates Easter's arrival with the Primate and the Rector after Vigil Ceremonies

emerging trends will likely impact on the use of the Church and Parish Hall.

Starting in June, the chairs of St. Thomas's committees and groups will use the discussion outline as the basis for "visioning" meetings with their members. The chairs will be contacting their members directly about these meetings and the information will also be in the weekly leaflet. These meetings will be open to all parishioners. (A list of the committee and group chairs appears on the back cover of this issue.)

Parishioners who are not members of a St. Thomas's committee or group can give their input in two ways:

- attend any of the scheduled visioning meetings.
- give their ideas directly to the Property Committee by e-mail or in writing c/o the Church Office. The Property Committee will be providing e-mail and other contact information in the weekly leaflet and on the St. Thomas's web site.

## *Step 2: Consolidating the findings*

The committee and group chairs and the property committee will summarize all of the feedback from parishioners. The findings will be presented at the September 2005 Advisory Board meeting.

## *Step 3: Developing the Master Plan*

Using parishioners' feedback, the Property Committee members will develop a proposed Vision Master Plan for St. Thomas's, which they will present at the October, 2005 Advisory Board meeting for review and discussion. It will then go to Corporation and will be shared with the entire Parish.

Speaking about the Parish Hall Visioning Process, Fr Mark Andrews says, *"This Plan will focus on the necessary changes to our buildings that will enable all St Thomas's ministries to flourish. Increased competing demands for worship, meeting, outreach, education, and social space are becoming very difficult to manage. So we must make strategic decisions to develop the Hall and undercroft to meet our own expanding needs and to maximize our rental opportunities. We are fortunate that Janet Stewart's talents will help us make the right decisions."*

# Appeal for the new St John's Convent: Saint Thomas Room Proposed for Guest Wing

by Fr Robert Ross

As many parishioners will know, the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine has moved to a newly constructed Mother House on the grounds of St John's Rehabilitation Hospital in Willowdale. When Sister Constance Johanna (the former Reverend Mother, recently succeeded by Sr Elizabeth Anne) visited St Thomas's a few months ago, she asked for our support, as parishioners, for this project. At that time, Fr Ross issued a challenge to parishioners to match his pledge of \$500 towards the cost of a "cell" or room in the guest wing of the new convent. At the present time, some parishioners have responded to this opportunity, but we are still short of the \$6000 needed to fund this room (which will be named after our patron, St Thomas).

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 Street – their Mother Foundress, Hannah Grier Coome is pictured on the triptich 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 the SSJD.

*The sisters need our financial support and our prayers! Financial support should be "over and above" our giving to the parish. Please make cheques payable to "St Thomas's Church" with a memo "SSJD Convent fund" on the cheque (if and when we raise the \$6000, the donation will come from the parish). Donors will receive income-tax receipts from St Thomas's. For more information, please speak to Fr Freeland or Fr Ross (both of whom are priest-associates of the SSJD)*

## Saint Thomas's Church

### DIRECTORY

383 Huron Street,  
Toronto, ON M5S 2G5  
(416) 979-2323 phone  
(416) 979-0261 fax  
www.stthomas.on.ca

#### E-mail:

Parish Office [saintthomas@sympatico.ca](mailto:saintthomas@sympatico.ca)  
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

#### Layreaders:

Walter O. Hardacre & Mary Suddon

#### Churchwardens:

Charis Kelso (416) 972-0604  
Gene Stewart (416) 961-4565

#### Deputy Churchwardens:

Jim MacMillan & Marlene Fader

#### Organist & Choirmaster:

John H. Tuttle (416) 516-2503

#### Parish Administrator:

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

#### Church Office & Parish Hall Bookings

Financial Officer & Treasurer: Anna Kennedy

Bookkeeper: Greg Anderson

Church School Supervisor: Diana Verseghy

Nursery School Supervisor: Maggie Murre

#### Web Master & Computer Consultant:

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

#### Coordinator of Sidesmen and Sideswomen:

Suan Seh Foo (416) 928-6809

Sexton: Colin Anderson

## 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  
appointment 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

CD/ROM project

loans of archival materials

Church School  
teaching, enrolment

Communications Committee

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.

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

Light maintenance, carpentry & general clean-up

Social Committee

Event planning and kitchen volunteers

The Society of Mary

### KEY CONTACTS

John Meadows:

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

Diana Verseghy: [diana.Verseghy@ec.gc.ca](mailto:diana.Verseghy@ec.gc.ca)  
(416) 979-2323

Ann Welsh (416) 972-1930  
[awc@interlog.com](mailto:awc@interlog.com)

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  
[pkennedy@mccllelland.com](mailto:pkennedy@mccllelland.com)

Robert Kennedy (416) 691-7637  
[kennedy@sympatico.ca](mailto:kennedy@sympatico.ca)

Susan Clarke (416) 484-8164

Fr Ross, David O'Rourke



The Sacred Ministers at Solemn High Mass on Easter Day: The Rector, celebrant; Fr Ross, Deacon; Jeff Creighton, Subdeacon



— You are invited to help —

## Dine Away the Deficit!

*A fun way to fulfill our parish commitment to eliminate the deficit.*



From the St. Thomas's Cookbook, to our work with Out-of-the-Cold, through to Smokey Tom's Café, it is clear that delicious meals are a core strength of our parish.

So when faced with the challenge of tackling our parish debt, we decided to do what we do best – cook and eat!

### What is it?

Dine Away the Deficit is a series of meals generously hosted by parish volunteers in their homes. The meals will be held in September and October (perhaps even in August if we get organized quickly enough).

### Be A Host

We are looking for 40 – 50 parishioners willing to be hosts. Hosts will generously offer their homes and provide the meal as their contribution. Hosts will select the date, menu and the number of guests they can accommodate.

There is lots of room for creativity here. You could:

- Team up with other parishioners and be co-hosts
- Hold a luncheon or high tea instead of a dinner
- Host your meal al fresco – make it a picnic!
- Do a sit down or buffet style dinner
- Make it a wine and cheese reception
- Perhaps a group of our parish chefs could host a meal in the parish hall

Above all make it yours!

### How Do I Become a Guest?

The meals will be publicized in August and September on sign-up sheets in the parish hall. Contributions of \$20 per person will be received from guests at the meals. All funds received will go into the Parish Operating Fund in aid of deficit reduction.

We hope that all parishioners will attend a meal (or perhaps more than one). A great way to enjoy both food and fellowship while helping the parish.

### Please Contact

To become a host, please pick up the form in the parish hall, or contact:

**Michael Rowland**  
Phone: (416) 368-7005  
E-mail: mrowland@randolph.on.ca

**Charis Kelso**  
Phone: (416) 972-0604  
E-mail: Charis.Kelso@sympatico.ca

## Saint Thomas's Goes To Sea:

### Parish to visit Mission to Seafarers Summer Bible Study on Boat

Two parish activities this summer share a water theme.

The Mission to Seafarers has an important ministry to men and women from around the world who sail into Toronto Harbour. These seafarers are often poorly paid and sail aboard badly maintained ships. The Mission offers services of a practical nature as well as spiritual. Father David Mulholland has been Chaplain to the Mission for many years, and is well known and loved at St Thomas's.

To support the work of the Mission St Thomas's is planning a group visit on **Thursday June 16th** to attend the monthly luncheon. The cost of the meal is \$10, and you can expect Fr Mulholland to cajole you into buying a few lottery tickets. Wine and beer is also available. St Thomas's Pastoral Care Committee is arranging rides for people who would like to join the outing. *Please contact Phyllis Garden if you would like to have a ride, or if you are able to offer a ride to someone else. Telephone 416 466 1879 or Email: pagarden@sympatico.ca*

The annual Bible Study on the Boat will be held for three evenings only, Thursday, June 16, 23 and 30.

The studies are held aboard "Foot-loose", which is berthed at the National Yacht Club, 1 Stadium Road. The boat leaves the dock at 6:00 pm sharp. There is a \$10 fee per session to cover the cost of the meal. A Sign-up Sheet is placed on the Hospitality Table in the Parish Hall or reserve a place by calling Barbara Obrai at the Church Office (416) 979-2323.

## Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament Annual Outing

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25**  
**Sign up now!**

*Featuring worship at St John's Convent and a private tour of the new convent; sheep dog trials at Country Heritage Park, near Milton; wine tasting at Magnotta Winery; dinner back at the convent. \$52 all inclusive. Trip leaflet and full information available in the Narthex and Parish Hall, or speak to Fr Freeland.*



**Recent episcopal visitors:** The Primate asperses the congregation at the Easter Vigil (left); York Area Bishop Phillip Poole made two Ascensiontide visitations.