

MAY 30, 2021
TRINITY SUNDAY
Saint Thomas's Church,
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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

TODAY	TRINITY SUNDAY 9:30 am Sung Eucharist (<i>live streamed</i>) 11:00 am Sung Eucharist (<i>live streamed</i>) 4:00 pm Evensong Prelude, followed by Evensong (on Zoom) 4:45 pm Coffee Hour (on Zoom)
Sun. June 6	CORPUS CHRISTI 9:30 am Sung Eucharist (<i>live streamed</i>) 11:00 am Sung Eucharist (<i>live streamed</i>) 4:00 pm Evensong Prelude, followed by Evensong (on Zoom) 4:45 pm Coffee Hour (on Zoom)
Wed. June 9	7:30 pm – Praying with the Masters Today (<i>see article</i>)
Sun. June 13	TRINITY II
Wed. June 16	7:30 pm – Praying with the Masters Today
Sun. June 20	TRINITY III
Wed. June 23	7:30 pm – Praying with the Masters Today
Sun. June 27	TRINITY IV
Wed. June 30	7:30 pm – Praying with the Masters Today

COVID 19 VACCINE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you have not been vaccinated and would like assistance making an appointment or getting to an appointment, please contact the office and we will forward your request to a parish volunteer who will assist you.

CHANGE IN COVID GUIDELINES FOR CHURCHES:

The Government of Ontario permits a maximum of 10 people to meet in churches during the current stay-at-home order. Nevertheless, the Church Wardens and clergy have decided to discontinue public liturgies for the duration of the Provincial Emergency with the exception of funerals for up to 10 people. The 9:30 and 11:00 am Eucharists will continue on YouTube and the 4:00 pm Recital, Evensong and Coffee Hour on Zoom. We are grateful to the clergy, servers and musicians willing to serve us in this way. Parish Administrator Christine Cover will work from home. The Friday Food Ministry continues with all protocols in place. We are grateful to Fr Shire and the volunteers for their faithfulness to this work of mercy in very difficult circumstances.

Fr D'Angelo and I are available to administer the sacraments in person in urgent situations. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us.

Pray for all those in our province and city affected by Covid 19 and especially for medical personnel at this critical time.

Yours faithfully,

The Rev'd Canon David Brinton OGS
Interim Priest-in-Charge

REFUGEE SUNDAY

The Bishop of Toronto has designated today "Refugee Sunday" in the diocese to celebrate and encourage ministry to those coming here because of persecution at home. Andrew Gray, a member of our parish Refugee Sponsorship Committee writes:

'St Thomas's has a long history of welcoming the stranger through involvement in Canada's private refugee sponsorship program, a program that allows private citizens, in churches or neighbourhoods, or as friends, to offer financial and personal support to refugees when they arrive as newcomers in Canada. This work began in the late 1970s and continued for many years during several waves of refugee crises.

In 2015, St Thomas's re-established its Refugee Committee, and we have constantly been supporting newcomers that come to Canada escaping persecution and displacement in their home countries.

- In mid-2016, the first newcomer supported by the current Refugee Committee arrived from Iran via Turkey, fleeing persecution based on their sexuality.
- They were followed in mid-2017 by a mother and daughter family, Eritrean newcomers who came to Canada from Sudan.
- In 2020 St Thomas's supported two groups of newcomers. The first group, two Eritrean cousins, came to Canada from Israel. They settled into their apartment just before the first pandemic lockdown. Despite that setback, they have persisted in English language lessons, meeting other Torontonians, and finding work now enabling them to support themselves after the year's support St Thomas's provided.
- In September, mid-pandemic, a Syrian family of five arrived in Canada. These newcomers spent several months living in the Rectory before moving into a midtown apartment supplied at no cost by a public-spirited and generous landlord. School enrolment (twice), ESL, and a driving license and are some of their Canadian accomplishments.

In our refugee sponsorship work, St Thomas's has been supported by AURA, the organization that facilitates sponsorship opportunities for the Diocese of Toronto, by the Diocese itself, in our 2016 sponsorship by the University of Toronto and individual neighbours within the parish boundaries, and by many volunteers from within and outside the parish.

Refugee sponsorship is a core aspect of St Thomas's commitment to the catholic tradition of social justice. We aim, as Leviticus says, to welcome the stranger and accompany them as they settle into life in Canada: "The stranger that *sojourneth* with you shall be unto you as the home-born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself." We strive to give effect to the encouraging words of Pope Francis: "We are called to reach out to those who find themselves at the existential peripheries of our societies to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters".'

Praying with the Masters Today

Four Wednesdays in June from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on Zoom:
June 9, 16, 23 and 30



Praying Monk, 1826, Johann
Friedrich Overbeck,
National Gallery of Art,
Washington, D.C.

June 9 - Introduction—What is Christian Mysticism?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q48GAOajGbU>

June 16 - *Contemplative Insights from Early Christianity*—
Origen of Alexandria, Evagrius Ponticus, John Cassian
and Gregory the Great
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNJuviWD2-A>

June 23 - *Lectio Divina and Contemplatio*—Contribution
of the Cistercians and Carthusians
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOPHXXKIPI5M>

June 30 - Meister Eckhart and Julian of Norwich on
Prayer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EViE52n7wxQ>

Zoom login details will be sent out each week through
the parish's weekly mailchimp e-blast.

Participants are asked to watch the assigned Youtube video on their own before attending each session (see the links above). Each meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the content of the video as a group.

These four lectures by Bernard McGinn were presented in 2017 as part of the 34th annual John Main Seminar hosted by the World Council of Christian Meditation (WCCM) USA at the University of St Thomas in Houston, Texas.

Professor Bernard McGinn is the Naomi Shenstone Donnelley Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology and of the History of Christianity at the University of Chicago Divinity School

ALTAR MEMORIAL FLOWERS – Dates Available!

Please contact the office at office@stthomas.on.ca if you are interested in having memorial flowers after Easter and up to the end of June.

Dates available include June 6 & 13.

Presently we are putting flowers on the High Altar approximately every second week, and having two or more families share the cost. If you would like to have a loved one memorialized in June of 2021, flowers will cost \$50.00.

The cost for flowers has increased significantly over recent years so we will be transitioning from the old rate through this COVID19 period. If you would like to continue your memorial when we are able to have in-person services once more, the cost for High Altar flowers will be \$125.00, and the Lady Altar will become \$75.00.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Painting the Rectory Basement and Undercroft Clean-Up

When the lockdown is lifted, would you be willing to lend a hand? A group of volunteers is needed to paint the walls and floor of the Rectory basement, and another group is required for a major clean-up of the undercroft – some heavy lifting will be involved.

We'll schedule the work for early June and plan it with COVID guidelines in mind so that everyone will be safe.

If you would like to help please contact Rob Kennedy, kennedy@bell.net, and let him know your availability.