

## Parish Update - St. George on Yonge – April 23, 2021



Photo credit: Kathy Baillie

Bougainvillea blooming at the Church

*Resurrection has three basic meanings. The first is to 'stand up for', giving meaning and credibility to another's words or person. The second is to 'stand behind', a power and presence that supports, protects, backs up and gives strength. The third is to 'stand with', as though in solidarity or communion with others. What God did for Jesus, the Father also now does for us, here and now. Our Father, with Jesus in the Spirit, stands up for us, stands behind us in life and death, and stands in communion and solidarity with us who believe and are baptized into Christ's body, the church, who are to stand in communion with the poor and those of the earth in need of justice and the judgement of God, declared by our presence with them.*

Excerpt from Megan McKenna: ***And Morning Came, Scriptures of the Resurrection***

### To our St. George on Yonge Parish Family and Friends,

#### DO YOU KNOW?

- 1) **Who** is celebrating a birthday this week? (Hint: we don't know either as no one has let us know!)
- 2) **What** is happening this evening (April 23<sup>rd</sup>)?
- 3) **Where** were the pictures in our photo gallery taken?
- 4) **When** is the next Seniors' fellowship?

Did you find all the answers? Congratulations! Now you know!

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### WE LOVE WILLOWDALE COMMEMORATIVE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY DINNER - TONIGHT

#### Message from the Willowdale Church Coalition

This long season of isolation and lockdown has been hard. Even the simple act of smiling at neighbours is challenged by the masks we must wear.

Please consider joining us tonight at 6:30pm for the **We Love Willowdale Virtual Commemorative Community Dinner**. We will share a heart-warming gathering with live music and poetry along with opportunities to connect with our neighbours - without wearing our masks.

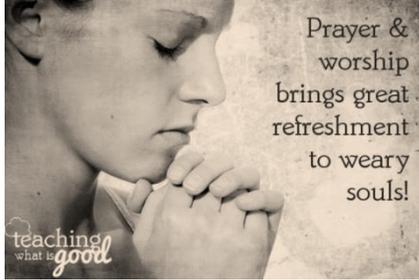
We are pleased to announce that **Mayor John Tory** will be joining us along with **TSO Violinist James Wallenberg** who will be playing *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*. This is in addition to our amazing roster which includes **Singer/Songwriter Matt Gerber** (back by popular request) and **Willowdale School of Music Founder Sarah Murley-Hauser**. The evening will be capped off with a lively concert by Marcus Schwan sponsored by Canterbury Place Retirement Home.

During a time of lockdown and isolation, we all need some more connection and hope.

The dinner will be virtual, but the connections with neighbours will be real.

If you have not done so already, please RSVP: <https://lovewillowdale.eventbrite.ca/>. Please also share with your friends who may need some connection and encouragement.

## EVENING PRAYER WITH THE PARISH FAMILY



Join us for evening prayer by Zoom.

Thursday evenings – next service is on - **April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

Time 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

An opportunity to invite family and friends interested in evening worship.

Interested in being a reader? Please respond to this weekly update or call Rev. Leonard at 416 225-1922 x515.

To join by computer, tablet or smart phone – Go to the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4136849381> You may have to download Zoom. **Passcode 1922**

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## SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP

Next session will be **May 5<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. You can join online or on the phone.

Join us for a time to be in touch with old friends and meet new people.

Please invite others who might be interested.

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## SAD NEWS

Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones died on Sunday, April 18. Ordained deacon in 1967 and priest in 1968, he served as assistant curate and senior assistant to the dean of St. James Cathedral, incumbent of Epiphany, Scarborough, incumbent of St. Aidan, Toronto, regional dean, honorary assistant of St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto, canon of St. James Cathedral, and executive assistant to the Bishop of Toronto. Transferring to the Diocese of Ontario in 1991, he took up an appointment as the incumbent of St. George's Cathedral, Kingston, and dean of Ontario and rector of Kingston. Elected Bishop Suffragan for Toronto in 1994, he served as area bishop, first in York-Scarborough and later in Trent-Durham. After retiring in 2008, he served a number of interim priest-in-charge appointments, including St. Jude, Wexford and St. Peter, Cobourg.

Mrs. Bonnie Bedford-Jones has been discharged from hospital and continues to recover from COVID-19 at home. She is grateful for your prayers.

Funeral arrangements, including a diocesan memorial service, will be announced in due course.

Source: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/news/bishop-bedford-jones-served-in-york-scarborough-trent-durham/>

## APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup> IS ST. GEORGE'S DAY



Who was St George?

Very little is actually known about the life of St George.

However, we do know that he wasn't English - he was born in what is now Turkey, in approximately AD 280.

He was raised as a Christian and joined the Roman Army as a young man.

St George was tortured and killed by Emperor Diocletian for refusing to renounce his Christian faith.

## NEWS IN THE COMMUNITY (FROM THE CITY OF TORONTO WEBSITE)

### Modular Housing Proposal for 175 Cummer Avenue

The City of Toronto is moving forward on its plan to increase the supply of affordable housing across the city. As part of the [HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan](#), the City committed to create 1,000 new modular homes in Toronto. The Modular Housing Initiative is an innovative and cost-effective way to build small-scale infill housing while providing a rapid, dignified response to connect people experiencing homelessness with homes and appropriate supports to help them achieve housing stability.

[Modular housing](#), which is essentially prefabricated housing, is built off-site in a factory and transported to the site for assembly. City Council has approved the first two phases of the project that will create 100 modular homes on City-owned sites in 2020 and an additional 150 in 2021.

A three-storey modular housing building is planned for 175 Cummer Avenue to be located next to Willowdale Manor. Each of the approximately 60 studio apartments would be self-contained with a twin bed, a private eat-in kitchen and bathroom. The building would also include a laundry facility, a kitchen and dining room, program space and administrative offices. The building is designed to support individuals who are exiting homelessness. A local non-profit housing provider will manage the building and provide support services to the tenants under an agreement with the City.

Two town hall meetings have been held for community input. If you have questions and feedback you can contact the Community Liaison Office or the Councillor's Office using the contact information provided below:

Community Liaison Office

Leah Snowden, LURA Consulting

[communityliaison@lura.ca](mailto:communityliaison@lura.ca)

647-578-8580

Councillor John Filion

Ward 18, Willowdale

[councillor\\_filion@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_filion@toronto.ca)

416-392-0210

For further information you can also use this link to the city's website:

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/community-partners/affordable-housing-partners/modular-housing-initiative>

## **PWRDF ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR PEOPLE DISPLACED BY ST. VINCENT VOLCANO ERUPTION**

Volcanic activity that began April 2 at La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues.

According to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), an estimated 20,000 people are displaced, including many women and children. The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) is now active, operating 85 shelters and housing 3,586 people. Many evacuees are sheltering with friends and relatives. The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has identified urgent need for water, buckets, folding cots, toiletries, blankets, field tents, kitchen utensils and sleeping mats.

Naba Gurung, PWRDF's Humanitarian Response Coordinator, has been in regular contact with the Anglican Alliance facilitator and Anglican church representatives in the region. Parishes in the neighbouring islands of Grenada and St. Lucia, as well as the seven other dioceses in the Church in the Province of the West Indies, are actively collecting donations and coordinating with their government disaster response mechanisms. PWRDF will issue a \$5,000 solidarity grant to support these Anglican initiatives on the ground.

"This is surely a trying time for us all in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, because at the same time we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the realities related to both, along with all the other challenges of our lives," write the Rt. Rev'd C. Leopold Friday, Bishop of the Windward Islands, in a pastoral letter.

"The present experience may cause us to wrestle with our faith, but it does not define who we are, our moments of wrestling must be seen as stepping stones to deeper faith, growth and maturity. They enable us to be more aware and sensitive to that which brings us all to life; that which is essential to our human existence. They provide opportunities for us to turn away from that which deadens our hearts and minds, so that we may be messengers of hope."

How can you help?

If you are able to support the needs of the people coping with displacement due to the volcanic eruption, please go to [pwrdf.org/give-today](http://pwrdf.org/give-today) and click on Emergency Response, or [click here](#), then add "Volcano relief in St. Vincent" to the notes section. You may also call Donor Relations Officer Mike Ziemerink at 416-822-9083, leave a voicemail toll free at 1-866-308-7973 or send a cheque with a memo "Volcano relief in St. Vincent" to 80 Hayden St. Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2.

## **WE LOVE WILLOWDALE AND NEIGHBOURLINK NORTH YORK**

# *Celebrate* **Single Moms** *for* **Mother's Day**

Give or receive a basket of encouragement.

Let's encourage these heroes!

SIGN UP BY APRIL 26:  
[WWW.NEIGHBOURLINK.ORG/SINGLEMOMS](http://WWW.NEIGHBOURLINK.ORG/SINGLEMOMS)  
MAY 8 DELIVERY.



INVITATION TO GIVE BACK: Would you like to make Mother's Day extra special for a single mom? The indefinite closure of in person schooling has made life incredibly hard for these unsung heroes. We currently have 62 single

moms registered with only 24 sponsors signed up. Can you create a pampering gift basket or make a financial contribution towards one? Please sign up to make a basket here (for drop off on May 8):

<https://forms.gle/7jSSQTtuPm2Bu1v6> Or make a tax deductible donation here:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/60903>

## PLEASE JOIN IN FOR WORSHIP

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** The Sunday service for April 25<sup>th</sup> is being streamed live on the St. George on Yonge Facebook page at **10 a.m. ET:** <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeonyonge/>. We will be celebrating St. George's Day when Bishop Kevin Robertson will be the celebrant and preacher. It's the beginning of the lead-up year towards celebrating our Centenary!

**Watch with your fellow parishioners! And please comment so we know who is joining in.**

The entire video will also be available on the page immediately after. Please invite your friends and family and let's watch, pray, sing and react together while being physically apart! Since you'll be in your own homes, you can belt out the hymns if you like!

You can continue to access the services at <https://stgeorgeonyonge.ca/sermons>. Services for previous Sundays can be accessed from the website by clicking on *Sermon Archive*. You can hear the sermon by calling the church phone number and choosing option 8.



Are there any special celebrations or birthdays to be recognized?  
Please let us know.

## PEOPLE IN TORONTO – COVID VACCINE

Individuals can now book a vaccine appointment online at the provincial website - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>. Currently this is for people 60 and older and some other eligible groups. Check the website for more information, a list of the eligible groups and to make an appointment.

Now people **40 and older** can make an appointment at a pharmacy. Go to <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations> and put in your postal code to find the pharmacies that have the vaccine available in your area.

Another person can do it on someone else's behalf if they have their full name, date of birth, and postal code.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



Opportunities for the children to connect with us and each other while staying safely apart!

Calling all **6-11+ year olds**. We are having our Zoom program **this Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. (this continues weekly). We will hear a story, we may attempt to sing a song or two, and do some activities related to the story. (Please note that if there are any children older than 11 and they would like to join in – you are most welcome!)

Calling all **3-5 year olds**. We are having our Zoom program **on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. (and save the date of May 22<sup>nd</sup> for the next session). Join us for a short time of prayer, stories, and activities filled with faith and fun!

You can just join in at the right time, no registration needed, but if possible, let Sarah (3-5 group) or Kathy (6-11 group) know that your child will be there.

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You can reach us at:

Sarah: [sarah.layman@stgeorgestoronto.ca](mailto:sarah.layman@stgeorgestoronto.ca)

Kathy: [fambail@hotmail.com](mailto:fambail@hotmail.com)

## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR – This Sunday! April 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Come celebrate St. George's Day! Wear red and white!



Come and join us for a special St. George's Day Coffee Hour on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Coffee Hour is a great way to connect with others, so important in these challenging times. We hope more people will join in – everyone is welcome!



(Note: having an actual plant by your computer is optional)

This week, when we are celebrating St. George's 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we hope people will bring a treat and a drink to the 'table', and share some happy parish memories. As well, on this Earth Day weekend, we hope to hear what people are doing to honour this important reminder about being good stewards of creation.

We are looking for people to be Coffee Hour hosts. This simply involves welcoming those who take part, and making sure everyone has a chance to speak and to interact with others. It's a pleasant and rewarding time for everyone, including the host. Please let the office know if you can help out. Thank you to Geraldine for hosting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

To join by computer, tablet or smart phone – Go to the following link:

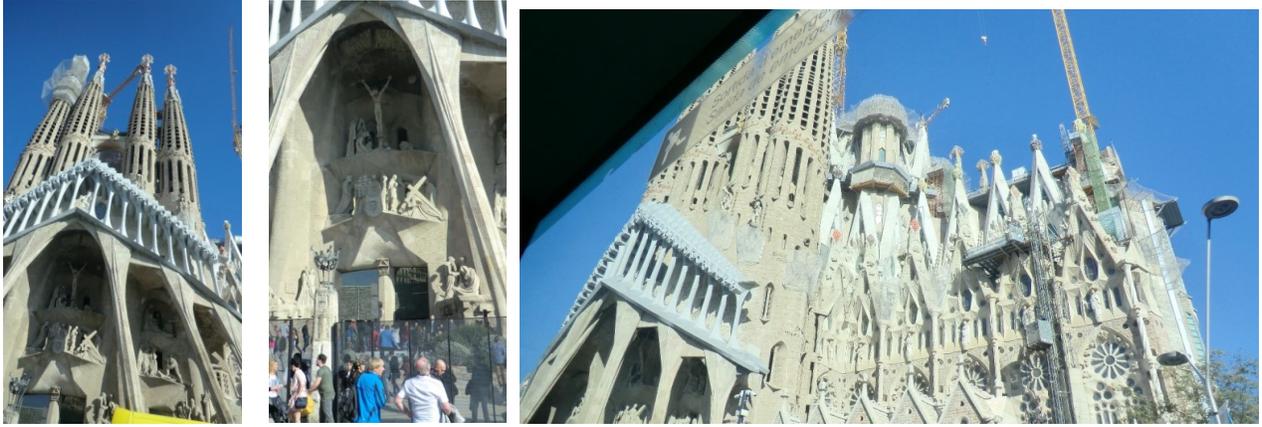
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If you would like to practise signing on, or need any further information, please contact Lorraine at 905-881-1465 or [lbaille@rogers.com](mailto:lbaille@rogers.com). On Sunday if you have any trouble getting on, please call Lorraine.

**Bring your optional hot beverage to the chat!**

## PHOTO GALLERY



The Basilica de la Familia Sagrada ('of the Holy Family') in Barcelona, Spain, was designed by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi. Construction began in 1882, the Basilica opened to the public in 2010, and work is still going on! The building is an amazing combination of Gothic and modern.

Geraldine Sperling

Do you have any pictures of interest that we could share? Please submit them to the office for consideration.

\* \* \* \*

## LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING NEXT DOOR



A very large crane is being used to take down the original crane from the top of the building. Construction has been proceeding well with the condo next to the church.

## GARDENING HELP NEEDED!



No experience needed. Some energy and stamina required. (Knowing the difference between a plant and a weed or willingness to learn is an asset). For the next couple of weeks we will be weeding, adding soil/mulch and splitting some of the plants that have grown very large. And all through the spring, summer and fall... much work to be done too. The weeds never take a vacation!

Please reply to this email or contact the Office Administrator if you are able to help.

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAVE GOD’S CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

With the necessity of wearing masks, if you are wearing disposable ones, please cut the elastic/ribbons before properly throwing them away. Animals, birds, fish, etc. can get caught up in the elastic. Don’t forget to cut the plastic rings of can holders too. Please say no to plastic straws... there are many alternatives out there now. And please use reusable bags when possible.



All of God’s underwater creatures thank you (especially the 4<sup>th</sup> one)! (Photo credit: Kathy Baillie)

FYI – the dolphin shown is named Jojo and he has been a resident in the waters of Turks and Caicos for over 30 years. If you have the opportunity to share this message, please do so. One parishioner shared this with her Condo and they put it in their newsletters. The more people we make aware of this, the better off God’s creatures may be. Thank you.

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

In these COVID-19 times, anyone needing to be at the church, for any reason, must sign in a log book as required by public health directives for contact tracing. People must inform Rev. Leonard or the Office Administrator or a Churchwarden why they need to visit St. George.

## OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is officially closed at this time because of COVID restrictions. We will be checking emails as well as phone messages so please don’t hesitate to reach out when needed. Rev. Leonard is on call for emergencies.

The church phone number is **(416) 225-1922**.

Office Ext. 501 [office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca](mailto:office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca)  
Rev. Leonard Leader Ext. 515 [leonard.leader@stgeorgeonyonge.ca](mailto:leonard.leader@stgeorgeonyonge.ca)  
Michael Leach Ext. 504

Prayer Requests – Margie Lyttle 416-512-6265 [mmlyttle@hotmail.com](mailto:mmlyttle@hotmail.com)

## IMPORTANT LINKS

For regular updates on COVID-19 from Toronto Public Health, or for updates on the impact of COVID-19 on City services, please visit [www.toronto.ca/covid19](http://www.toronto.ca/covid19). This link will also connect you to Provincial and Federal information.

For information and updates from the Diocese, please visit [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)

### We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .

#### Congregation Cycle

Dilip Ghose  
Eleanor Gilbert  
Ferdinand Gill  
Parivin Gitiravan  
Azita Golpour



*“I am the good shepherd, says the Lord:  
I know my own and my own know me.”*

John 10:14