

Update from All Saints' **Email to the Parish from The Venerable Christopher Dunn**

31 May 2020

Hard to believe but this is the last email message that I will be sending out for a while. I met with Simone this afternoon in the Courtyard at the Church to go over a few final things as she takes over. As I leave for my **Sabbath/Sabbatical Leave** and Vacation time I know that you are very well cared for; Simone will handle everything that needs to be taken care of, and I can relax.

I am not sure about you but I think the world has turned upside down this week.

The images from south of the border are both terrifying and disturbing. I know that my thoughts and prayers are with **George Floyd** and his family during this time, but they are also with all those who feel that they can not walk the streets safely because their skin colour, ethnicity, or language may set them apart. It is easy for Canadians to say that it is an American problem -- but it is not. Racism and discrimination are certainly a major problem here. I have to recognize that as a White Male I am part of the problem. I need to learn to do better; we all need to learn to do better. On this Feast of Pentecost when God took down the barriers of language that divide, may we also hear God wanting us to tear down the barriers that exist in our society where racism and discrimination continue to thrive.

This evening we can join in the celebration of the **Consecration of Shane Parker as the 10th Bishop of Ottawa**. The service starts at 7:00 p.m. and you can find the link to the service on the Diocesan website by clicking on this link just before 7:00 p.m. tomorrow:

<https://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/ordination-and-consecration-may-31-2020>

Or directly on the Diocesan Facebook page at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/OttawaAnglican/>

I am attaching an PDF article that Glen Fox gave me from the Queensway-Carleton Hospital. These days we find ourselves having to **wear non-surgical face masks** and coverings in more and more situations. This article talks about how to look for the facial expressions behind the mask that help us to understand how someone is feeling.

Finally, I want to end with a big thank you. A **thank you** to Simone for all the work that she has been doing to get ready for my time off, and for everything that she will do in the next four months. I know that she will not be emailing you every day and that she is ready to try new things in the worship area, but we are also moving in to a bit slower time period when things can be done differently -- we are shifting into a different normal. I want to thank Adam as he moves on tomorrow to the next segment of his Curacy -- we wish him all the best in his ministry. I want to thank Jarrett who has been quietly working away in the background and continues to help out with the St. Luke's Table meal programs. I want to thank Barbara for her work with the children's videos that you will be seeing through the summer, and Edith who has provided some lovely music as she supports our on-line worship.

So May 31st is normally the day in the Church's calendar when we commemorate the **Blessed Virgin Mary's visit to Elizabeth**. While that is transferred to June 1st because of the Feast of Pentecost, I thought that the prayer for this special feast of Mary was an appropriate one to finish with:

"Almighty God, who looked with favour on your servant Mary and called her to be the mother of your Son, nurture in us the humility and gentleness that found favour in your sight, that with her we may proclaim the greatness of your name and find the mercy you show to those who fear you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen"

All the best to each of you; take care, stay well and remember that you are loved,

Chris