

CLW Parish Newsletter – Easter 2017



Morning light streaming on the cross at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Wakefield.

Photo by Monique Heintzman.

An Easter Reflection from our Priest, The Reverend Jeannie Loughrey

I recently reread Julia Esquivel’s magnificent poem, *They Threatened Us With Resurrection*. Although its context is the terrorization of Guatemala and the genocide of its peasant population in the mid-twentieth century, it is filled with confidence. Death is unable to have the last word.

Author Esquivel isn’t naïve. Before going into exile, she spent more than fifty years in Guatemala. She knows what its successive military regimes did and why so many willingly were martyred. Awareness gives her expressed confidence an edge. Resurrection is real – so real that it’s threatening.

Those who survived Guatemala’s successive military regimes were threatened, both by those regimes and also by those they martyred. The former forced continual questioning and self-doubt. “Are we truly prepared to be brought and to bring others into a new life larger than this

one?” The latter prompted ongoing anguished reflection. “Will we honor the resurrection vision if it requires our death too?”

Even if we’ve escaped the sorts of horrors Esquivel describes, her poem is a commanding reminder. No matter our circumstance, new life is hard. Often it’s easier to bear the literal and figurative death marking our present than to embrace the challenges new life brings.

As well as a poet, Esquivel is a peace activist and theologian. Work has taught her that new life is social. Although it touches us individually, we are communal beings. We only truly experience resurrection when we enter networks of relationships that establish and foster peace and justice, love and truth.

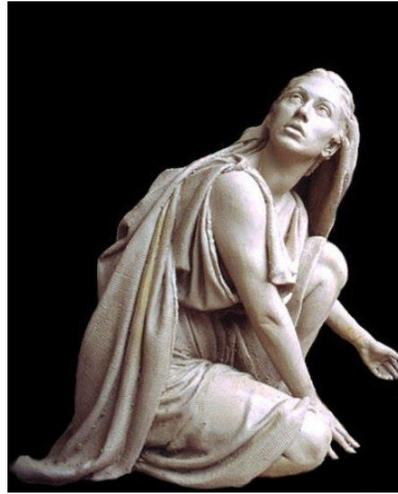
We can see this in *They Threatened Us With Resurrection*. Resurrection is collective. It embraces and unites both the living and the dead. Resurrection is shared experience of and commitment to the world as it was intended from its beginning. Although Esquivel doesn’t use the words, resurrection is the consummation of God’s Kingdom. Here are her poem’s closing two stanzas:

(continued on page 2)

*(Resurrection) is something within us that doesn't let us sleep,
that doesn't let us rest,
that won't stop pounding
deep inside...*

*...because in this marathon of Hope,
there are always others to relieve us
who carry the strength
to reach the finish line
which lies beyond death.*

*Join us in this vigil
and you will know what it is to dream!
Then you will know how marvelous it is
to live threatened with Resurrection!
To dream awake
to keep watch asleep,
to live while dying,
and to know our selves already resurrected.*



Mary Magdalene sees the risen Jesus

They Threatened Us With Resurrection is worth close reading, primarily because it nuances so much we've learnt:

We've learnt death is our greatest threat and resurrection our greatest hope. However, it's more complicated than that. In all but the most pressing circumstances, death is something to which we've become habituated. We know how to mask or cope with the figurative death of our pain and dysfunctions. We know when to huddle with others and how to create conspiracies of silence that leave the suffering and death of those outside the huddle unnamed. What we know far less about is extricating ourselves from death-in-life's grip in order to respond to new life's resurrection call.

Perhaps this is because we've also learnt that resurrection is tied to our personal narrative. God-in-Jesus calls and we respond, thus ensuring a future home within God's full reigning. Again, this understanding is too simplistic. By grace and through its reception, we are resurrected into community. Relationships spanning life, death and afterlife, unite us with God, not only in the future but also right now.

As we approach Eastertide, I am trying to commit to memory Esquivel's affirmation: *in this marathon of hope there are always others to relieve us, who carry the strength to reach the finish line which lies beyond death.* It speaks to me of Christ and of those - known and unknown - who have followed or are following his way. By their life and in the continuance of their spirit, none of us is alone. We share in resurrection. Moreover, as we build and foster resurrection relations, we will dream and strive together for the world's full resurrection. *Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven:* that is the hope for which Jesus ran the marathon and the hope God intends us to share.

I pray us all a blessed Easter, *Jeannie*

Our parish is expanding!

And the reason is a little sad. Bishop John Chapman has decided that the Parish of Eastern Outaouais is no longer viable and that it should be disestablished. Four of the five churches of the Eastern Outaouais will be converted to chapels and will be attached to Chelsea-Lascelles-Wakefield (CLW) as the “sponsor” parish.

The Parish of Eastern Outaouais currently contains five churches. These are St. George’s Gatineau, St. Stephen’s Buckingham, Christ Church Poltimore, St. John’s Glen Almond, and St. Thomas Silver Creek. At only the first two churches are there still weekly services. Attendance has been falling at all of the churches and some of them have got to the point where they can’t find enough people to be wardens and treasurers. They still have the resources for the upkeep of their buildings and for paying part-time priests. Of the five churches, St. George’s, Gatineau, will become part of the parish of Christ Church, Aylmer, and the other four will become part of our parish.

Our priest, Jeannie Loughrey, and the wardens of our two congregations met with the bishop on March 14 to discuss this development. Bishop John laid out a few basic principles for the merger. The most important safeguard for us is that if the chapels cannot maintain their buildings and pay part-time priests, the Diocese will close them. It will not allow the chapels to become a burden on us as the sponsor parish, diverting time and money from our own efforts to grow and expand our ministries.

The Bishop asked that we work out the details of the arrangement directly with the people of the Eastern Outaouais. Jeannie and the wardens of CLW hope to begin the process at a meeting with the people of EO after Easter.



On March 19, the newest member of the parish, James Robert Baker, was baptized at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Wakefield. On April 2, St. Mary Magdalene, Chelsea, freshly repaired and painted, hosted the monthly all-parish Eucharist. We have lovely buildings in a beautiful and growing corner of Québec. Now all we have to do is fill them!

Our Parish: The Way Ahead

Where are we heading and what - and whom - do we stand for?

At the annual vestries of our two congregations, in February, our priest, Jeannie Loughrey, asked some questions about our future. It is time that we start trying to answer these.

Jeannie noted that our financial situation for the time being is fine but, as congregations, we are aging and we are having trouble recruiting younger people. She suggested that we begin discussing our “viability for ministry,” not just for our own needs but for those around us.

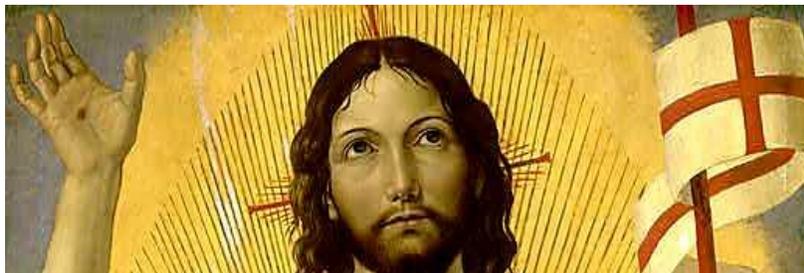
The specific questions that Jeannie posed, and that I am slightly paraphrasing, were these:

- Will our congregations be financially self-sufficient when some of our older members leave the scene?
- Are our congregations using their income to support the work of ministry or does the upkeep of our buildings consume too great a share of our resources?
- Are our congregations striving to honor the baptismal covenant in terms of worship, teaching, proclaiming the Gospel, resisting evil, loving others as ourselves, striving for justice and peace, and being good stewards of God’s natural creation?
- Do our congregations have the energy and resources to meet the challenges of the communities that we live in and serve?
- Can our congregations provide for the future well-being of their lives? If not, are there ministries around us, less tenuous, with which we can share resources?

Jeannie gave the example of our Sunday Schools as the sort of pressing and practical issue we should tackle as we discuss her set of questions. She rightly pointed out that without having a strong group of people ready to serve as Sunday School teachers and assistants, we will find it almost impossible to attract younger families to our two churches.

Jeannie asked that we think about a process to be used over the coming year to develop ideas and plans for making our parish stronger and able to fulfill the baptismal covenant in every possible way.

Your wardens suggest that we hold, during the coming twelve months, eight Saturday afternoon meetings to discuss variety of issues that we face. These meetings will be held in parishioners’ homes and be followed each time by potluck suppers. All members of the two congregations will be invited to attend and participate, starting in May and June.



News from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Wakefield

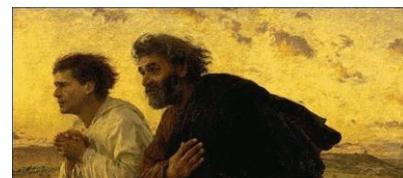
- We ended 2016 in the black, thanks to a rally in end of year givings. Yeah team!
- Judi Webb and Pam Scobie continue as wardens; Gill Heginbottom and Stan Carlson have become deputy wardens.
- The Valentines Tea on February 18 and the Joint Service Brunch on March 5 were good fun and good fund raisers.
- St. Andrew's United Church in Wakefield has closed and has given us their piano and organ. The Wakefield Food Pantry is moving from St. Andrew's to our church hall.
- GSW along with 1st Wakefield Scouts will have a table together at the Wakefield Community Centre on April 22, for Earth Day.
- On March 19, our newest member, James Robert Baker, was baptized at GSW.
- On March 25, Amy Norma May Brown and Kalil Kurt Malone were married at GSW.
- We share the happiness of the Jamison-Cross family at the safe arrival of baby Emma on March 31.
- We crave the warm breath of spring and await the mystery and joy of Easter.

News from St. Mary Magdalene, Chelsea

- We expected a deficit and ended up with a large surplus for 2016, even without counting a generous bequest from Carol Martin whose death just before Christmas we continue to mourn. For 2017, we are not taking anything for granted.
- At our February 21 Vestry, Monique Heintzman and John Coleman were chosen as wardens and Marian McGrath became the lay delegate to Synod.
- Thanks to Carol Martin's gift, we have repaired and repainted the interior of the church. It looks lovely.
- Our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper attracted over 90 people to the church.
- The celebration of life of David Castleman, on March 25, attracted many friends and past and present parishioners for a time of joyful remembrance and fellowship.
- On Palm Sunday afternoon, April 9 from 3:30 pm to 6 pm, we are hosting a parish-wide and community-wide event that we are calling "Easter 101." This event will be aimed at children of all ages, from nine days to ninety years, and will feature crafts, stories, songs and a special Easter egg hunt. A free supper will follow the fun.



Three Marys mourning Jesus. John and Peter running to the empty tomb, following Mary Magdalene's vision of the risen Jesus.



Calendar of Events, Holy Week and Easter to June, 2017

St. Mary Magdalene Chelsea (SMM), Good Shepherd Wakefield (GSW), Holy Trinity Lascelles (HTL)

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| Palm Sunday Eucharist | April 9, SMM 9 am, GSW 11 am |
| Easter 101 - Parish Outreach Event & Supper | April 9, SMM, 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm (contact Monique Heintzman at moniquewh2004@yahoo.ca) |
| Holy Monday | April 10, SMM, 6 pm meditation, 7 pm quiet worship |
| Holy Tuesday | April 11, GSW, 6 pm meditation, 7 pm Taizé worship |
| Holy Wednesday | April 12, SMM, 6 pm meditation, 7 pm musical worship |
| Maundy Thursday: | April 13, GSW, 5:30 pm supper and 7 pm Eucharist, |
| Good Friday: | April 14, SMM, 2:30 pm, Solemn Worship |
| Easter Sunday Eucharist: | April 16, HTL 6:30 am, SMM 9 am, GSW 11 am |
| Earth Day: | Saturday, April 22. Wakefield Community Centre |
| Sunday, April 30, SMM & GSW | Christine Jannasch will speak at 9 am and 11 am about the Diocesan appeal, Today4Tomorrow |
| GSW Garage Sale with Bake Table: | Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. |
| Joint Parish Eucharist: | Sunday, May 7, 10 am, GSW (preceded at 9 am by a session on prayer led by Paul Dumbrille) (during the 10 am service, Louise Profeit-Leblanc will talk about the Truth & Reconciliation Forum) |
| Truth & Reconciliation Forum | Saturday, May 20, from 1 pm to nighttime, Wakefield Community Centre (contact Marian McGrath at mhtmccgrath@gmail.com) |
| A Rocha Hike, Supper & Discussion | Saturday, May 20, from 2 pm to nighttime, 264 Kingsmere (contact moniquewh2004@yahoo.ca) |
| GSW Victoria Weekend Tea: | Monday, May 22, 2 pm |
| SMM Bring a Friend Service & Coffee Hour: | Sunday, May 28, 9 am to 11 am |
| SMM Tailgate and Book Sale: | Saturday, June 3, 9am to 3 pm |
| Joint Parish Eucharist: | Sunday, June 4, 10 am, SMM followed by Book Café |
| GSW Magic Show: | Sunday, June 4, 4 p.m. at the Wakefield Legion |

