

Lent & Easter 2014

Grace Schurch scarborough



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada

Parish Newsletter

Letter from the Incumbent....



Dear Friends in Grace,

We are in the holy season of Lent

Archbishop Colin sent this piece out in a letter recently. I hope he won't mind me sharing it with you.

*God of the desert, as we follow Jesus into the unknown,
may we recognise the tempter when he comes;
let it be your bread we eat,
your world we serve and
you alone we worship. Amen.*

*May you keep a holy Lent so that it becomes life-giving not life-robbing and
opens you ever more deeply to the heart of Christ.*

I was deeply moved by this and I think it is a good guide for how to use Lent well.

During Lent this year Vinaya and I are making two ways open for you to deepen your faith and practice of the faith.

Vinaya is offering the 7pm Friday evenings of sharing praise and prayer. This is often the beginning place for a new way of seeing Jesus close to your life, and finding the breath of the Holy Spirit blowing. It is intimate and deep. I commend this to you all.

I will be offering a book group on Wednesday evenings following a simple evening prayer at 7pm. "The Shack" by Wm. Paul Young came out in 2007 and became a 7million-seller book. I have read it and found it deeply challenging, moving and finally refreshing for my faith in the Trinity. Modern books on the Trinity are rare! And this is told as a story, not as a theological work. It is an easy read, hard to put down. Libraries, new and 2nd-hand bookstores will have it. We begin the week with an overview and you can decide if you want to get the book! We end April 9th.

The Lenten retreat is on the 22nd and is now full. Book early next year.

In Lent I will deal less with the Bible readings than with a series of basic teachings about following Jesus as a disciple in the Church.

March 9th will look at the kind of moments in life when the door of faith seems to open.

March 16th will look at the decision to bind yourself to Christ in Baptism, and we will be baptizing little Khaleesi.

March 23rd Vinaya preaches

March 30th I will speak on how a person of faith chooses to look upon some aspects of life and remain focused there. It will be about "enlightenment".

April 6th Archbishop Colin is with us, to my great delight.

April 13th is Palm Sunday. On this day I will talk about the nature of power given, power taken and how power is understood by followers of Jesus.

In Holy Week. Monday to Wednesday we will offer a simple morning prayer from 9.00am to 9.30am in the side chapel, and services for stations of the cross at 7:00 p.m.

17th - Maundy Thursday features the "Seder Supper" a Christianised version of the Last Supper, a Passover Meal, which is the foundation of every Eucharist we celebrate. This will be at 5.30pm, by sign-up only, as places are set. It is odd, unusual and sets an understanding of what Jesus saw as he approached the cross.

The Maundy Thursday Liturgy is celebrated at 7pm in Church with foot washing and Eucharist.

18th – Good Friday at 11am we try to walk with Jesus through the Crucifixion.

19th – Holy Saturday at 8.00 p.m. As the sun is setting we enter the Great Vigil of Easter, recalling the long history of God at work among the Israelites, the passion of Jesus and the first hints of the Resurrection. We light the Easter fire and renew our baptismal vows with water.

20th – Easter Day is celebrated at 8.45 and 10.30 with gladness. There is an old tradition worthy of bringing back, to bring bells to church. At the moment in the Gospel story that tells of the first sign of the Resurrection everyone rings their bells madly!

On Friday the 25th there is a celebration of music at 7pm and on Saturday the Spring Tea lets you delight in the end of fasting this week!

Sunday the 27th is Earth Day and it is another baptism day, this time we welcome baby Nia into the Body of Christ. It will be a "contemporary" worship at 10.30.

Speaking of contemporary services, we began these over a year ago as a way of learning a new way of doing the Anglican thing. I think it is time we began to review how we take the next step. Do we incorporate aspects of the Contemporary service into our regular liturgy? Do we rethink around music, words, choir, congregation? I invite you to be in touch with me in the next weeks with your opinions. Our aim is this. How do we make accessible, to absolute new-comers, the worship that sustained us in decades past, and make it new and rich for decades to come? Change we must, but how to do it well? And how do we use the advantages of the new space and minimize the disadvantages? Please think and talk creatively about these. (It is said, "When faced with a problem you have a choice. You can complain, or you can work to solve it. Which you chose determines who you become.")

April and May will bring some interesting, significant changes of their own to Grace Church, but presently that remains under wraps.

With Archbishop Colin I wish that you may keep a holy Lent so that it becomes life-giving not life-robbing and opens you ever more deeply to the heart of Christ.

In Peace,

David



Journeying Through Lent



Lent is a time to fast, pray, and reconcile with God. It is a time that we all need to pause for self-examination and allow God to search our hearts so that we may be renewed by His Spirit. Fasting for some may dictate giving up their favourite chocolate or suspension of social media activities. What do the saints say about fasting?

"Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself." -- St. Peter Chrysologus

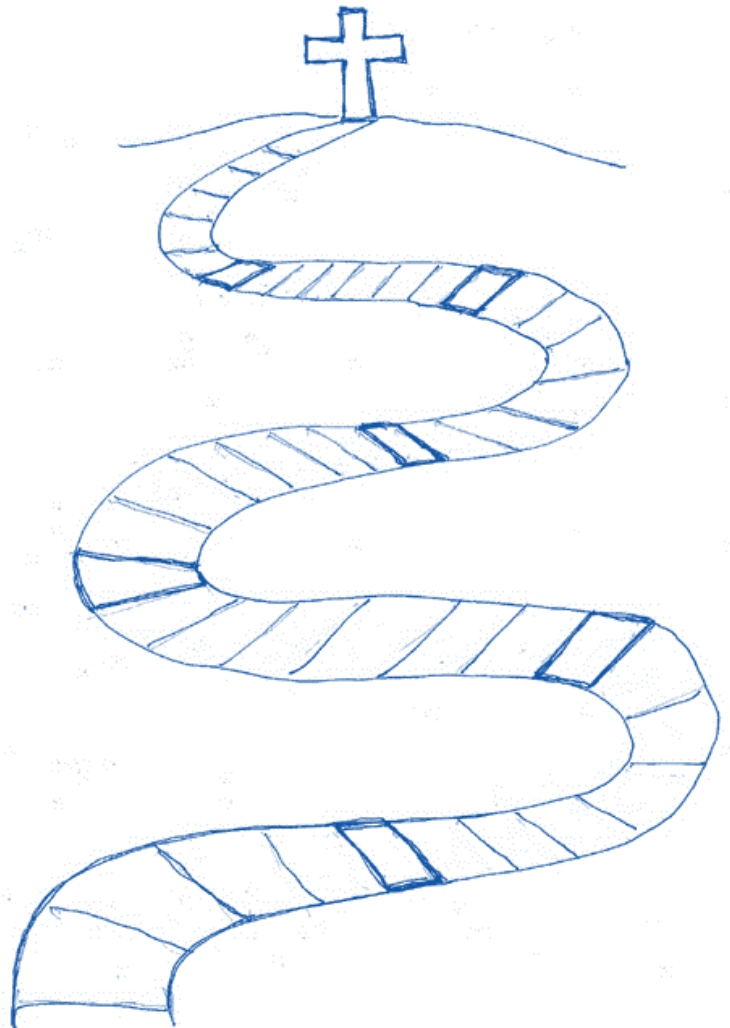
Jesus was led by the Spirit to separate himself from food and everything else. He got alone for forty days and nights in order to be with God. He prayed; He asked; He pleaded; He broke; He wept. His personal preparation lacked one more thing: confronting the temptations that would face Him in the following years. And this was the only time Jesus was tempted.

Pope Benedict XVI once said, *"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."*

Lent is also a time for demonstrating greater love and compassion to fellow human beings. It is a time to uplift one another, bless one another and skewing your thoughts toward God.

Through this period of Lent, we at Grace Church Scarborough meet every Friday at 7:00pm to pray and intercede for others' petitions. So join us for an evening of contemporary worship, prayer and meditation. Let us journey together during this season of lent asking God to search our hearts and minds and seek a brand new direction for your life.

Vinaya S. Dumpala





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday	Palm Sunday	8:45 a.m. BCP, 10:30 a.m. BAS
Monday - Wednesday	Morning Prayer Stations of the Cross	9:00 a.m. <i>(in the side chapel)</i> 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Seder Supper Maundy Thursday Liturgy <i>with Washing of Feet and Eucharist</i>	5:30 p.m. <i>(by sign-up only)</i> 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Good Friday	11:00 a.m.
Saturday	Holy Saturday	8:00 p.m.
Sunday	Easter Sunday	8:45 a.m. BCP, 10:30 a.m. BAS

Upcoming Events

Craft Workshops	2nd Saturday of Each Month	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Lenten Retreat	Saturday, March 22, 2014	<i>(Fully booked)</i>
Guest Preacher: Archbishop Colin Johnson	Sunday, April 6th, 2014	10:30 a.m.
Spring Tea	Saturday, April 26th, 2014	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mother's Day Luncheon	Sunday, May 11th, 2014	After the 10:30 a.m. service
Yard Sale, BBQ & Bake Sale	Saturday, May 31st, 2014	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Father's Day Breakfast	Saturday, June 14th, 2014	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Strawberry Social	Friday, June 27th, 2014	6:30 p.m. Dessert 8:00 p.m. Concert

Visit our website for our complete event calendar for details

<http://gracechurchscarborough.com/parish-life/upcoming-events/>

Grace Church Music

Here are some photos from our first event at 700 Kennedy Road on November 22, 2013. The concert featured internationally renowned violinist **Jacques Israelievitch**, and **Valentina Sadovski**, pianist, performing a recital of works by Franz Schubert.



Jacques Israelievitch is returning to Grace Church on **May 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** He will be performing on both the violin and viola.



Videos from our Christmas Cantata can be found on our **YouTube** channel www.youtube.com/gracechurch2011



More photos from this and other events are available on our website at gracechurchscarborough.com

Grace Church Music Concert Series

Mar 21/14	Suzanne Shaafsma, Soprano	7:00 P.M.	\$10.00
April 25/14	Vania Chan, Soprano	7:00 P.M.	\$10.00
May 23/14	Jacques Israelievitch (Violin & Viola)	7:00 P.M.	\$25.00

For tickets, please contact the church or email: jimpellegrini@hotmail.com

MUSIC AT GRACE

Jim Pellegrini, Music Director Valentina Sadovski, Assistant Music Director

Order of the Diocese of Toronto

At a New Year's Day service, one of Grace Church, Scarborough's very own parishioners, Sylvia Slemmestad, along with 47 other laity from across the Diocese, was honoured by Archbishop Colin Johnson with the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. The purpose of the Order is to recognize and honour those members of the laity in the Diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry.

Congratulations Sylvia, your life long ministry has made a significant impact in the life of our parish!



Open House & Official Opening Service

A selection of photos from our grand opening event that was held on **January 25, 2014** at 700 Kennedy Road.



More photos from the grand opening and other events are available on our website at
gracechurchscarborough.com

Weekly Services & Activities

Sunday	8:45 a.m.	BCP Service (<i>Traditional</i>)
	10:30 p.m.	BAS Service (<i>Contemporary</i>)
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Gals Nite Exercise and Social
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	11:00 am	Bible Study
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Worship, Intercessory Prayers & Meditation

Contact Us

Mailing Address & Phone Number:

700 Kennedy Road Scarborough, ON, M1K 2B5

Phone: 416-755-5316

Incumbent:

Rev. David Howells

incumbent@gracechurchscarborough.com

Mission & Outreach Officer:

Vinaya Dumpala

outreach@gracechurchscarborough.com

Secretary:

Doreen Brown

office@gracechurchscarborough.com

Music Director:

Jim Pellegrini

jimpellegrini@hotmail.com

Communications Officer:

Ryan Ramsden

communications@gracechurchscarborough..com

Churchwardens:

Yvonne Erwin-Knox , Rixford Marshall,

Julia Greenidge, Ryan Ramsden

wardens@gracechurchscarborough.com

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