

Dear Christ Church Family,

This May I will celebrate 30 years since my ordination as a Deacon. Since that time, I have had the privilege of seeing God on the move in the lives of the people and communities I have served, most recently among you at Christ Church these nearly 19 years.

I have served four parishes in three dioceses. I have been on Diocesan and Area Councils and served as Regional Dean. I have sat on numerous diocesan committees and on various volunteer boards of directorship for local community agencies including a local hospital. I was on the radio in one parish and in the local newspaper in another. I have presided over countless baptisms, marriages and funerals and taught many a Lenten study, confirmation class, bible study, baptism and marriage preparation seminar and other such events.

I have supported the dying, offered God's hope to the bereaved, taken my share of late-night phone calls, counselled the fractured and administered God's absolution to penitent sinners. I have stuffed envelopes, fixed toilets, stacked chairs and mopped floors. I have done my best to preach the Word in season and out, in church buildings, care institutions, parks, jails and even in churches of other denominations. I have team-led capital campaigns, building projects, regional rationalisation studies, parish merger discussions and significant changes in worship and administration. I have overseen theological students, assistant curates, associate clergy, honorary assistants and various lay ministry and administrative staff.

I have attempted to do these things to the best of my ability while trusting in God's grace to make up for my shortcomings. I have not won every contest nor achieved every goal, but through it all God has been abundantly faithful, and in many instances expanded my vision and surprised me with results I had not anticipated. In smaller parishes I worked largely by myself along with Kim - the secret to my success. In larger parishes, I have worked with capable staff and volunteers. At Christ Church I have been blessed by so many ready, willing and able people - no wonder I have been so happy among you!

In it all and through it all, I have found my deepest joy in the simple everyday things of my vocation as a husband and father, priest and pastor ~ living, working, playing and sleeping in the communities I have served.

Those of you who are discerning a call to ordained ministry - know this - It's a wonderful life; it's not always easy, but it's wonderful and I can honestly say "I'm so glad I didn't miss it".

We have come to a time of parting, not out of anger, discouragement or breakdown - far from it! Our parting has come, not because of death, but because of life! I'm retiring and God has new things for you and for me to do now and on into the future.

God will send you another Priest to be a faithful labourer among you. And so we can part thankful for the time we have had together and with joyful confidence in God's future.

Please know that I will always hold you dear in my heart and I will continue to pray for you. I am so grateful for what God has done in your life and in mine - most especially together.

We can face the future because Jesus lives and calls us into the future of his glorious life. We can follow with confidence knowing that "we have seen the Lord" and that he is interested in and present to his Church.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you. May he fill our hearts with joy.

Byron+

Holy Week 2024

During Holy Week, we journey from the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the drama of Holy Week to the glory of Easter. Whether you are joining us in-person or online, we hope that you will journey with us.

Palm Sunday (March 24)

10:00 am In-Person | 4:00 pm Online

Holy Week begins with the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) as we make the journey from Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his utter rejection and crucifixion. Incense may be used at this service.

Maundy Thursday (March 28)

7:00 pm In-Person

At this celebration of Holy Communion, we remember Jesus's Last Supper and his charge to love one another through the washing of feet. We end the service by stripping the altar. Incense may be used at this service. Bishop Kevin Robertson will be joining us as guest preacher and presider.

Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday (March 29)

10:00 am In-Person | 4:00 pm Online

Join us we remember Christ's suffering, crucifixion, and death on Good Friday with a service of Scripture, music, and ancient prayers.

Good Friday Prayer Walk (March 29)

11:00 am In-Person

Our Prayer Walk on Good Friday starts & ends at Christ Church. It is approximately 4km of paved pathways in downtown Brampton and along the Etobicoke Creek path. Please note that there is a set of stairs to access the Etobicoke Creek path. All are very welcome to join us. Dogs on-leash are welcome too!

Good Friday Stations of the Cross (March 29)

7:00 pm In-Person

Through the reading of scripture, this service provides a quiet, contemplative space to reflect on the death and burial of Jesus.

Easter Day (March 31)

10:00 am In-Person | 4:00 pm Online

Alleluia! Christ is risen! We will gather around Christ's table and join in music, prayer to proclaim Jesus' victory over death and the Good News of the Resurrection. Incense may be used at this service.



Palm Sunday - March 24
In-Person 10:00 am | Online @ 4:00 pm

Maundy Thursday - March 28
In-Person @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday - March 29
In-Person 10:00 am | Online @ 4:00 pm
Family Prayer Walk @ 11:00 am
In-Person Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - March 31
In-Person 10:00 am | Online @ 4:00 pm

All are welcome | All are invited | No Experience Required



**Good Friday
Prayer Walk**

March 29 | 11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Start & Finish @ Christ Church
4 Elizabeth St. N

Parish Selection Committee (PSC)

In early December, The Rev. Canon Dr. Byron Gilmore announced that, effective April 7th, he will be retiring after 19 years as our Pastor. A Parish Selection Committee (PSC) has been formed to work with the Bishop to determine who will be the next incumbent for Christ Church Brampton.

Since our last update, the members of the PSC have continued to meet with the Diocesan coaches to understand the process and learn about other churches' experience. We have also submitted a formal request for an interim Priest to be assigned to Christ Church for the duration of the search for a new Incumbent.

In the coming weeks, the PSC members will be working on the collection of background information, the development of a parish survey, and preparations for several small group sessions with members of the parish. All of these are for the purpose of gathering the input we will need to write a parish profile. In May, the formal survey will be distributed, and the resulting information collated and analyzed. Small group conversations will give members of the parish the opportunity to express their wants and needs for the parish, and the information from these conversations and the survey will be prayerfully considered by the PSC members and the coaches. In June, input from the congregation will help in the creation of the Parish Profile which is then submitted to the Bishop for his feedback. Once the Bishop's feedback is integrated, the finalized version of the Parish Profile will be a key input into the remaining steps of the selection process and will be widely distributed including to the parish.

We wish the entire process to be covered in prayer and filled with the Holy Spirit. To that end we encourage you join us in the following prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the many blessings Christ Church has received under Rev. Byron's shepherding and pray that you continue to move mightily in his next stage of ministry. Please send your Holy Spirit on the Parish Selection Committee so their every step is guided by you in determining who the new Incumbent will be. May the process open the entire congregation's eyes to the blessing you have poured out on

Christ Church and the ministry you have for the parish in the years ahead. We pray that you start preparing the heart of the person who will be our new Incumbent and that we can all look with confidence towards the next stage of ministry for Christ Church.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please feel free to reach out to any of the PSC members.

Charlene Bickerstaffe, Elizabeth Charters, Chinweike Chike, Shumaila Desrochers, Ken Egbuna, Peter Harvey, John Joukema, Nancy Kee, Stan Szepesi (Chair)

Cool Church Welcomes Back Sarah White



Several years ago, Christ Church recognized the need to run Sunday School year-round. As a result, we run "Cool Church" over the summer months for children aged 4-12. Many of you will recognize the photo (*to the left*) of Sarah White. As the daughter of Andrea & Jeff White and older sister to Eric, Sarah's first service at Christ Church was when she was a week old! We are delighted that she has once again accepted the summer position of Coordinator, Children's Ministry. We know that many of our children have fond memories of Sarah's "Camp Bear" last summer. Sarah will be with us from early May until the end of August. We are looking forward to welcoming Sarah home from her 2nd year of university.

Byron's Retirement Celebration | Sunday, April 07 @ 11:30 am

Retirement Potluck Lunch

A Celebration Honouring
the Ministry of

The Rev. Canon Byron Gilmore



April 7 @ 11:30 am
Following Sunday Worship

Do plan on attending to thank Byron and his family for their faithful ministry among us these past nineteen years.

Potluck Lunch: Byron's last Sunday with us is April 7 ~ the 1st Sunday after Easter. Following the 10:00 am service, please plan on joining us for a Potluck Lunch in the Parish Hall. For the various ways you can help, there is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Office. What is needed:

Food: Entrees, Salads/Veggies, Appetizers, Fruits, Sweets/Cookies/Squares, etc.

Beverages: Juice, Soft Drinks

Help: Set-Up (Saturday, Apr 6 @ 10:00 am), Kitchen, Tear-Down

For further information, please contact Jessica Tikaram at:

Call/Text: 416-903-4432 Email: sjtikaram@gmail.com

Parish Gift: Should you wish to contribute to a Parish Gift to celebrate the ministry of Byron and his family, we are accepting donations that will be directed to a gift to "explore and experience" retirement. Please clearly mark your donations: Byron's Retirement. Please know that there is no obligation whatsoever.

A Couple of Reminders

- ✓ Online services are accessible through our website at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca. Once they are "premiered" you can watch at any time. The QR code to the right will take you directly to our website.
- ✓ Also on the website, you will find the weekly announcements and links to photos of our recent events (including new photos celebrating our Lenten season together) at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events
- ✓ Our parish ministries count on the generosity of our parish family ~ it is as simple as that. It is through your generosity that we can "be the Church" whether we are inside or outside of the building. More information on our various methods can be found here: www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give



Encouragement

What encourages you to give to Christ Church? We likely have many different answers but at the core, we give because it is here that we experience unconditional love. It is here where we tend to the sick and lonely. It is here where we create community and look after those less fortunate. It is here that we can experience hope and new life. Our parish ministries count on the generosity of our parish family ~ it is as simple as that. It is through your generosity that we can "be the Church" whether we are inside or outside of the building. More information on our various methods can be found here: www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give

We pray that you and your family will have a blessed Eastertide and beyond. Alleluia!