

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

I am delighted and honoured to serve as Interim Priest-in-Charge during your transition. I love interim work. Everything I know about Christ Church leads me to be so glad for this opportunity.

On my first Sunday – in accordance with the lectionary readings that “happened” to be prominent that day – I preached on shepherds. You just said farewell to one shepherd, work is being done on calling another, and I am transitional, stuck in the middle between Once and Future priests.



All human shepherds are *temporary*. Temporariness is built into my appointment, a six-month contract. But even Byron, here for almost two decades, was temporary. As will be the next priest. We are all temporary and our primary role is to point to the true Shepherd, the Good Shepherd, the Lord Who Is Our Shepherd. Early in my ministry (four decades ago already!) I wondered how to understand the peculiar practice of pastoral ministry. The job description included different tasks: preaching, presiding, pastoral care, greeting people, attending, and sometimes chairing meetings, picking litter from the floor, visiting. How did all this hang together? Everything I do as a pastor ought to remind us of God’s grace, encourage us to draw near to God, point, and orient people to God and the priorities of God. I love the word “orient.” Originally, it was a noun, simply meaning “east.” Eventually it became a verb, “to orient,” and meant to face or turn east. Why? As scriptures teach that Jesus the Christ will return in the east ancient Christian traditions insisted Christians should face east when worshipping and praying and constructed buildings accordingly. Our church worship literally faces east. (If I have my geography correct; I’m new to Brampton and in my first week already got lost – disoriented – at least once.)

There are times and periods where we feel *oriented*: things make sense, life works, God is clearly on God’s throne, the world mostly feels right. But then we get *disoriented*: things don’t go well, we are not at ease, we experience losses. This can feel like dying or being in the wilderness. But Christians are not left here. The heart of our faith celebrates how God works through dying *and* rising. God’s mercy and grace can bring us to a new place where we are *reoriented*. Being reoriented is pleasant and echoes life when we were oriented. But now we know the cost and suffering that got us here. Through my biggest disorientations I gradually came to see God at work even in the most difficult times. I was deepened as a Christian and could minister more faithfully. Christ Church’s transitional phase may feel like disorientation and some will grieve. That’s normal! Some will be anxious. That’s normal too! None of us know exactly what the future holds, but we count on God.

I am glad to be on this pilgrim journey with you. We trust and pray that God walks alongside us and is moving us steadily toward a grand reorientation.

Pax,

Arthur +

Arthur Boers
Interim Priest-in-Charge

Holy Week & Easter @ Christ Church



More From Around the Parish



After travelling through Holy Week together, we celebrated a fond farewell to Byron and family followed by a scrumptious feast in the Parish Hall. New **photos** of life at Christ Church during **Lent**, **Holy Week** and **Byron's last Sunday** with us at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events



Outreach News

Above: International Christian Voice welcomed another family to Canada in late March after spending 10 years in a refugee camp in Thailand.

Middle: Our Sacred Sewing group continues to meet monthly. In April, they created Fidget Quilts destined for Long-Term Care facilities and the Alzheimer's Association. The last gathering before the summer break is Saturday, May 25th at Christ Church.

Right: In April, Regeneration Community Outreach released a series of videos about volunteering at Regen, including one by parishioner Stan Szepesi.

Resource Management | Financial Giving

“The mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God. Therefore, true ministry must be mutual.”

(Henri J.M. Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*)

Christ Church has been blessed by the ongoing generosity of our parish family. We are grateful to those who have played a part in ensuring our ministry continues to flourish. This is especially true in time of change and transition when we **continue to gather** for worship, **see lives changed**, **provide strength** for those dealing with stressful events and **help people** see the meaning and purpose for our lives. Intentional, purposeful and sacrificial gifts have enabled to partner with God to provide ministry to our community in Brampton and beyond. We simply cannot “be the church” without your support.

At Christ Church, we offer a variety of ways to give which are briefly described below:

- 1. Pre-Authorized Remittance (“PAR”)** is convenient way of giving to Christ Church in that a set monthly amount is withdrawn from your bank account. PAR provides a convenient way to ensure your offerings are received on a regular basis. PAR forms are available here: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give>
Maybe now is the time to consider signing up for PAR or perhaps increasing your monthly amount?
- 2. E-Transfers** via the Interac system.
 - a. Simply set-up Christ Church Brampton as a payee on your internet banking account.
 - b. Email address required: christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca
 - c. No password is required; if you are new to us, please ensure your name & address is included.
 - d. Upon making an offering you will receive an email notification as will Christ Church.
 - e. Your offering will be included in your annual tax receipt*Envelope subscribers using e-transfer are provided an envelope set method ~ for the modest cost of having a set, they have a “physical” reminder to continue to make e-transfers.*
- 3. You can donate electronically via CanadaHelps** using your credit card through the Christ Church Brampton website. At the top of the homepage – click “Online Giving via Canada Helps”. It takes you to the following link. In this case, CanadaHelps provides you with a tax receipt. We have parish households that take advantage of method of giving.
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/christ-church-brampton/#donate-now-pane>
We currently have a few people providing Christ Church with monthly donations through CanadaHelps. At Christmas, we received donations that were marked anonymous via CanadaHelps ~ you simply never know of how we touch the community.
- 4. However, you can drop off** your church envelope in the mail slot at the church The not-so-obvious-mail slot is located just below the buzzer on the right hand side of the office doors...it’s a wee bit tricky because it is a vertical slot. Of course, you may place it on the offering plate should you be attending in-person worship.
Offerings that are dropped off or picked-up are included in the Sunday blessing.
- 5. You arrange for a pick-up** by calling Martha at:
Office: (905) 451-6649 / Phone or Text: 416-420-3765
Martha tells us she is always up for a walk with her dog for a pick-up...within a reasonable distance.

Parish Selection Committee (“PSC”) | May 5th is Survey Sunday!

As you know, we, Christ Church Brampton (CCB), are in the process of searching for a new Incumbent (Priest) to lead us forward following the retirement of Rev. Dr. Byron Canon Gilmore.

Part of this process is to create a Parish Profile, which is brief, yet insightful, document of who we are at CCB, how we worship, how we foster fellowship, how we serve our community and, importantly, how we want to move forward into the future to serve God and spread the Gospel. This profile will be open to all priests who may wish to consider applying for the role of Incumbent at CCB.



Parish Selection Committee | Mar 19/24

The Parish Selection Committee (PSC) is actively seeking congregational input to help us create this vital document, and the Parish Survey is a part of the process.

We will launch the Parish Survey on Sunday, May 5th, and our goal is to have the input complete by Sunday, May 19th. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

The survey will be available on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/57J6857>. We hope that many of you will complete the survey online as it greatly reduces the workload of data entry. For those parishioners who wish to fill-out a paper survey, a hard-copy of the Parish Survey will be available on request one from a PSC member or the parish administrator. Completed surveys are to be returned to the church in a sealed envelope with SURVEY RESPONSE written on the outside.



All members of CCB are welcome to participate, including our online community as well as those who cannot physically come to worship during our services. We need your input. If someone you know has not received the link to the survey or would like a hard copy, please reach out to a PSC member or the parish administrator.

Please take the time to complete the survey to the best of your ability. Please keep in mind that:

1. This survey is anonymous.
2. You can skip any questions that you are not comfortable answering.
3. Please be open, honest and prayerful in your responses. Don't tell us what you think we will want to hear.
4. To prevent multiple surveys from being completed by the same person, the software will only allow one response per device. So, if there is more than one person in your household who would like to fill out the survey, please do so on a different device (i.e., laptop, cellphone, tablet).

As we all know, surveys do have their limitations (for example, only able to pick one answer, not enough space to write a comment). Don't worry, you will have the chance to express your thoughts. The PSC will be following up the survey with several small Listening Sessions with CCB ministry teams, as well as a Parish Consultation session for all members of the congregation (*It is anticipated that the Parish Consultation will be Sunday, June 9 following worship*). One purpose of the survey is to get us thinking about issues and concerns that you may have, and discuss them with each other, which will all help in putting together our Parish Profile.

More information and instructions will be shared following the May 5th service. We look forward to seeing you there and moving forward to learn more about you and your relationship to Christ Church as we search for our new Incumbent.

Parish Selection Committee

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

The Ministry of Hospitality | Exciting News

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

Over the course of the summer months, our kitchen is having a well-deserved **“facelift.”** While more information will be forthcoming, we want to share this news with you now. The project will include new hardware and flooring, stripping & painting of cupboards, ensuring a working dishwasher, replacement of countertops and stoves, etc. The budget will be modest in nature as most of the labour is provided ~ a portion of that labour is being provided by our Narcotics Anonymous Group that is celebrating its 15th anniversary of meeting at Christ Church. How awesome is that! Throughout the months of July and August, Coffee Hour will be held upstairs and in July we will be holding a “Garage Sale” to help offset some of the costs. Further information about this project and sale will be released in June.



Our Thanks

Please know we are always available should you have any questions or need clarification on any matter. In closing, we offer our deepest thanks to all those who join us in partnering with God and His mission in Brampton and beyond.

Shumaila Desrochers
Rector’s Warden

Sean Joseph
People’s Warden

Catherine Laing
Deputy Rector’s Warden

John Joukema
Deputy People’s Warden