



June 2025

Parish Announcement

The Bishop of Toronto Appoints Micheal Brain as Assistant Curate to Christ Church (Brampton)

As announced on the Feast Day of St. Peter and St. Paul (June 29, 2025), Michael Brain has been appointed by the Bishop of Toronto as Assistant Curate of Christ Church (Brampton) beginning September 1, 2025. Michael comes to us with a Ph. D in Theological Studies (Wycliffe College, 2022) and several years of pastoral ministry experience. Most recently, he has been working at the Anglican parish of St. Mary and St. Martha (Weston) as part of his preparation for candidacy for the Priesthood. Michael was ordained to the Diaconate in May of this year. This is a great opportunity for both Christ Church and Michael. It gives us a lift in terms of being able to accomplish more and provides solid training ground for Michael.

While having a Curate is not new for Christ Church (many of us will have fond memories of Jeff Nowers and Michelle Jones), many of you may have some questions about what this appointment means for Christ Church.

What is an Assistant Curate?

An Assistant Curate is much like an intern that has all the functional abilities of a Deacon and later as a Priest. Typically, a Deacon is ordained to the Priesthood within a year of becoming a Deacon. Assistant Curates typically come with a minimum of 2 university degrees, years of field training while at theological college, summer internships and clinical pastoral education. A curacy placement is 2 years in duration after the initial ordination to the Diaconate.

How Will a Curate Help Christ Church?

The short answer is in many ways. Each year, since emerging from the pandemic, our Non-DNA parish family has grown ~ that is clearly apparent on Sunday mornings. With that growth, comes further needs and by adding resources we will be able to address them. A parish of our size can keep a Curate fully engaged and help us further deliver programming that will sustain that growth. Our Parish Profile, (available here: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/job-opportunities>) authored by the Parish Selection Committee in our search for a new Rector clearly articulated that Pastoral Care and Christian Education were desired areas of focus which we intend to shore-up with added resources. Michael will also bring his own gifts to further enhance our life at Christ Church. Together, we have a wonderful ministry field to explore both within and outside the walls.

How Can We Afford a Curate?

The costs for the 2-year Curacy program are shared between the local parish and the Diocese of Toronto. The Diocese of Toronto has been generous to Christ Church and you will see that reflected in our F2026 budget to be presented at our Annual Meeting of Vestry tentatively scheduled for September 28th. That said, it is no secret that the retention of a Curate will be a stretch goal for Christ Church. As your Wardens, we have the responsibility to be prudent with our financial resources as good Christian stewards. After careful prayer and discernment, we unanimously agreed that this opportunity is best for our parish family.

What's Next?

Michael's start date with Christ Church will be September 1, 2025 and we know that you will make him and his wife, Bridget, as welcome as you have done most recently with the arrival of Fr. Theodore and his family. We hope that you are as excited as we are Michael's appointment to Christ Church and the mutual blessings that we are about to receive.

Theodore Hunt
Rector

Stan Szepesi
Rector's Warden

Sean Joseph
People's Warden

Samir Tikaram
Deputy Rector's Warden

Liz Charters
Deputy People's Warden