Pandemic Ponderings...

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)

The picture to the left was taken pre-pandemic and is in the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. This is the destination of many of the pilgrims who walk the Camino. This picture was taken at the Pilgrims’ Mass, as you can see the cathedral is very full! People from all over the world speaking a whole variety of languages come this site each day. It is a place of gratitude, thanksgiving and spiritual quest. It is a place of discovery of the holy in and amongst the ordinariness of life.

I wanted to share this picture in this cathedral because of Jesus’ words in the gospel reading for this Sunday: For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

While many of us might be pining for things to go back to “normal” for church worship services, I think Jesus’ words remind us about his presence with us not only in large church gatherings or in grand cathedrals or only in certain places. Christ comes to us and is known among us even when we meet with very few others and it is good to be reminded of this. When we come together with even one other, and we gather in Christ’s name, his presence is known to us.

I hear very often that these small gatherings are taking place all over the city and around the world. As we worry about the spread of the virus, we have come to know that being in smaller groups is safer and to be encouraged. And it is interesting that when we gather in smaller groups, often a deeper conversation, a more focused dialogue, a more intimate discussion starts to take shape. We focus more on those we are with. It is intriguing!
While we cannot gather in large groups at the moment, as a maximum of 50 people has been mandated, perhaps this has much to teach us about how to simply be with other people. Perhaps this has much to teach us about how to invite and acknowledge Jesus’ presence with us. Perhaps this has much to teach us about God’s calling for us. Perhaps this has much to teach us about what is most important and where true priorities might lie. Perhaps it reminds us that loving God and loving our neighbour as ourselves comes into sharper focus in these times.

May you know Christ with you when you meet with a small group of others. May you notice Christ’s presence. May you feel God’s grace upon you.

**In-Person Worship at the Church on September 6**

Please join us for in-person Morning Prayer worship at 8:00am this coming Sunday.

To ensure everyone’s safety, here are the protocols we were required to put in place:

- A maximum of 50 people (including staff and clergy) are allowed to be in the church at one time. To manage this we have set up a ticketing process through Eventbrite. There is no cost for the tickets, here is the link to get there:

  [https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/morning-prayer-service-at-saint-johns-shaughnessy-sun-sept-6-2020-8am-tickets-119317135765](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/morning-prayer-service-at-saint-johns-shaughnessy-sun-sept-6-2020-8am-tickets-119317135765)

- We ask that you try to arrive prior to 7:45am. Volunteers will explain which seats are available (those without a blue X on them), ensuring appropriate social distancing.

There will be organ music as part of the service but no singing and physical distancing will be expected the whole time. We look forward to seeing you!
Online Worship at 10:00am for Sundays

We will have Online Worship at 10:00am! Do not fear that you will miss out if you are not comfortable or are not able to attend at 8:00am this coming Sunday. Online Sung Morning Prayer will begin at 10:00am.

To access our worship online you can go to our website at www.sjs.net and click on the link there. Or you can access it through: a Facebook Live feed, a Youtube live feed and a Twitch live feed.

To access one of the live feeds, select one of the following links:

- St John's Shaughnessy on Youtube or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJzbgb4009j4WMkaRBvTE-zQ
- St John's Shaughnessy on Twitch or m.twitch.tv/sjsnanton
- facebook.com and search for “John Shaughnessy"

Once the service ends, it will be available on each of the streaming platforms to view later using the same links.

Virtual Coffee Hour after the 10:00am Service

After the 10:00am service this Sunday, join us for a virtual coffee hour using Zoom! It is a fun way to catch up with other people in the parish. Essentially, you can use the link below to join.


Sunday Services Going Forward

We will have services of Holy Communion starting on September 13 at 8:00 and 10:00am. Please book your tickets through Eventbrite (The link is here: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/holy-eucharist-service-at-st-johns-shaughnessy-sun-sept-13-2020-10am-tickets-119321611151?aff=erelexpmlt) so that we know how many people are coming. This is very important especially for this first Sunday of September 13. Here are a few things to note:

- There will be no congregational singing at either service but the organ will be played at both services.
• The choir will sing at the 10:00am service (they will be socially distanced from the congregation by 5 metres).

• Communion will be only the bread (and not the wine) and will be administered to people one at a time (maintaining social distancing). Each person must sanitize their hands prior to receiving Communion.

• There will be a maximum of 50 people allowed at each Mass.

• Everyone must wear a mask. The priest will be wearing a mask as they distribute Communion.

• Tickets should be booked in advance so we know how many people will be attending and their contact details.

We will continue to live-stream the 10:00am Mass for those not yet comfortable coming to the church.

Mid-Week Meditation
The Mid-Week Meditation was posted on YouTube on Wednesday September 2 at 8:00pm. This is a beautiful service of Compline (or Night Prayer) and a reflection. A great way to end a day. This week Father John is the officiant.

You can watch it at anytime, just follow the link from our website www.sjs.net

May God be with you.

Financial Support - Stewardship
If you would like to make a financial contribution to help support the worship and ministry of St. John’s Shaughnessy, please do! You can use this QR code (point your phone’s camera at it) and it will take you to the donation page of our website.
If you have recently made a contribution online or by cheque, thank you so very much! If you currently give by Pre-Authorized Donation, thank you! Our church has been affected by COVID-19 in many ways but financial giving is certainly one. We cannot worship together, we cannot have in-person meetings, we cannot keep the office open for regular hours, the investment market has greatly reduced its returns and this has all had an impact on our financial receipts.

If you would like to give via Pre-Authorized Donations, please contact Janet in the office (church@sjs.net or 604-731-4966). If you would like to give to the church via one-time (or several time!) donations using a credit card (and we are aware that many people are being affected financially by this pandemic), please use the DONATE button on our website or give through an online charity donation website like Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org). Thank you very much.

**Podcasts**

If you like to listen to podcasts, why not include a podcast of Mid-Week Meditation or the Sunday Sermon? They are now available as a podcast under the heading of **The Anglican Angle from Shaughnessy**.

You can get the podcast from: *Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Overcast, Pocket Cast, Castro and Castbox*

**The Labyrinth at St. John’s**

Thanks to an enormous amount of work by our Verger, Regan (who had help from Mike Dezell and a few others) the labyrinth is now stained onto the concrete in the back portion of the nave. It looks wonderful! At this point it is still mostly covered by the pews, which we have put back into place (while we wait to make decisions about them and to give us more seating options during COVID). We hope to have a grand unveiling towards the end of September so stay tuned for that!
Social Distancing Gardening

Please join us on Monday mornings if you would like to be part of working in the gardens. Bring your own tools if you can (to minimize contact with others) and Regan will meet you at 10:00am in the courtyard. Thanks!

Our Refugee Family

Please pray for our Refugee Family!! They will not be able to come to Canada any time soon due to the shut-down of our borders and most flights coming into Canada. The coronavirus is in the Refugee Camp and they are extremely worried. We hope that this pandemic will soon be over but it is, of course, extremely difficult for those with insecure shelter. Please pray for their safety and an easing of their anxiety.

Ride for Refuge

The Ride for Refuge is a family-friendly fundraiser held on Saturday, October 3, 2020, that helps support charities who provide refuge and hope for some of the most vulnerable people on earth. Doug Symons is wanting to organize a St John's Shaughnessy group that rides on October 3 to raise money for this worthwhile cause. We would do this socially distanced and in a way that is safe given our current circumstances. Please let Janet in the office know if you are interested in participating.
Some thoughts on the Bible Readings for this Sunday by the Rev’d Canon Herbert O’Driscoll

THE FIRST READING Exodus 12.1-14: We are witnessing the birth of Passover, one of the world’s great religious observances. Why is this significant for us as Christians? Because the early church soon came to see Jesus' death in terms of this Passover meal, which He and they themselves would have known since childhood. They began to think of Jesus as the Lamb that was slain. The meal of bread and wine that Jesus had commanded them to celebrate became an echo of the ancient Passover meal. As the Lamb had to be perfect so they came to regard Jesus as perfect. As the lamb's blood graced the doorposts of Egypt so Jesus' blood graced the vertical wood of the cross. Thus Passover and Eucharist mingle their meanings down through time.

THE PSALM Psalm 149: A strange mingling of images. First we share joyful worship. There is music and dancing. Then suddenly there is the hiss of drawn swords, words like vengeance, punishment, chains, iron, judgement ring out. Can we sing this psalm today with meaning? At the heart of this psalm is a important truth. If a society rejoices in its institutions of governance; if it believes that there is a God who is the source in meaning of history; if it has formed a just society, then this society will be strong. It need not necessarily be a warlike society but it will be a durable one. It will last.

THE SECOND READING Romans 13.8-14: The great letter to Roman christians is coming to an end. Paul's tone mellows. Here is advice about living, personally and in community. Paul begins with the most important thing. One who loves another has fulfilled the law. Considering how Paul has gone on and on about the Law this is quite a change, One is reminded of Karl Barth, the great 20th century theologian, being asked in his old age what he valued most as a theological truth. The man who had written a shelf long set of volumes about the epistle of Paul relied “That Jesus loves me” Time tends to bring life down - or up - to essentials!
THE HOLY GOSPEL  Matthew 18.15-20: Here are some suggestions for handling conflict. One of the gifts a community can give us as individuals is the gift of questioning our own motivation and behaviour in ways we can accept and learn from. There is a lovely piece of Jewish wisdom. *When two sit occupied with the words of the Law, the divine glory is in the midst of them.* Perhaps Matthew has this in mind when he recalls Jesus saying *Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.* Scripture may also be saying that where reconciliation between two becomes possible, there is the glory of God sitting between them.

Neighbourhood Ministry News

After a five-month hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Neighbourhood Ministry’s Street Outreach team resumed its weekly activities on Saturday August 29. Safety protocols, approved by the diocesan COVID-19 committee, have been put in place to ensure best practices. The team described their experience as a rewarding outing, meeting about 11 people—some regulars and others new to them—during a four-hour stint on the streets. Following is a report of their experience. For privacy reasons, only initials are used for the people they met.

Reported by Jane Davis and Janice Hope:

At 9:45am on Saturday, August 29, Joan Stewart, Jane Davis and Janice Hope (yes, it’s a lot of J’s) met at St Philip’s. With facemasks on, we briefly discussed the COVID protocols and Joan took some pictures to document the first Neighbourhood Ministry outing since March 2020.

Jane and Janice, travelling in separate cars with our respective cell numbers, headed out to the first stop: West Point Grey United Church. No one was there, so we continued to St. Helen’s to hopefully find Bl. He was not at the church, so we planned our next stops at Jericho Beach and No Frills at 4th & Highbury.
Da was happy to see us at No Frills and not sure where everyone else was but said he would let people know we were back for Saturday mornings. We left a packet and some face masks as well as McDonald’s and President’s Choice cards.

At 4th Avenue we said hello to Pe selling his calendars and left him with a packet and some face masks.

Next to Jericho Beach Parking Lot and the area around the youth hostel, where we didn’t find any individuals in the area or vehicles that appeared to possibly be a home. On to our way to VSB, Jane spotted someone sleeping on a bench located between 7th and 8th avenues. We approached and introduced ourselves to a young woman, Ju, who had several pieces of luggage with her and was wrapped in a comforter. She declined our offers of a packet and other supplies, saying she was "Okay."

Back to VSB, we saw Jo at his usual spot. He was happy to receive face masks, a packet and McDonald’s and PC cards. We also met Ch, who was resting on a park bench at VSB; he accepted a packet and some cards as well.

Behind the Granville and Broadway McDonald’s location, we found Ba, who accepted a packet, some cards and facemasks and told us Ir was up by the Firehall library. We did not locate him at the front, but the library staff at the door said there was someone meeting our description behind the library, which is where we found him dozing on a narrow walkway behind the building. We left him with a package.

Down under the Granville Street Bridge, we met Da and Dr, who, along with two another friends (who were not present), had set up some tents and a common living area. They were happy to accept packets and some cards. Near the cement 100, there was another tent set up with the entrance covered so we were unsure if anyone was present. After identifying ourselves—just in case someone was home—we left a packet by the tent entrance.

Travelling west along Broadway, we met St outside Tim Hortons, as well as Ro at McDonald’s, who accepted PC and McDonald’s cards.
We explained to several people that we are not able to provide sandwiches or hard-boiled eggs at this time, due to COVID protocols. One or two also asked about Kits showers program, but we said the status of community centres re-opening was still pending.

We need donations of food and new socks for the packages. (Only these things are needed: Boost/Ensure, easy opening canned tuna and fruit, soft granola bars, puddings, socks, toques.) Please drop off supplies that you would like to donate to the back door of St. John’s (please do not bring other clothing items or bedding for the Neighbourhood Ministry).

Thank you, all parishioners, for your continued support and donations that are used in this ministry.

Do you have a used bicycle that you would like to donate?

We continue to accept used bicycles for those in need. Please contact the office for information.
Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole Community Policing Centre is looking for volunteers for their new Marpole Food Bank

**Wednesdays** 10am – 12pm: Separating the food

**Wednesdays** 7pm – 9pm: Bagging the food

**Thursdays** 10am – 12pm: Distributing the bags from behind your own work station table where you leave the bag for collection. This will be done with limited numbers of people entering the building at a time so as to stick to COVID-19 protocols.

Volunteers will be provided with PPE (hand sanitizer, gloves & mask).

All participants who are collecting bags will be asked to use hand sanitizer before entering the building. Most participants also wear masks.

**Volunteer Sign-up information:**

1. **Click this link** to go to invitation page on SignUp.com: [https://signup.com/login/entry/467011763491322095](https://signup.com/login/entry/467011763491322095)

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Kate Molloy and she can sign you up manually. She can also answer any questions you have.

Please contact Kate Molloy at 604 717 3434 or komcpc@shaw.ca to receive waiver forms for youths & adults, along with the KOMCPC COVID-19 Safety Plan. All volunteers must sign & return them before taking part.

**6070 East Boulevard (at West 45th Ave)** [http://www.komcpc.ca](http://www.komcpc.ca)
**Sunday in-person service**   8am said service (please pre-register)

**Sunday online service**        **Wednesday online service**
10:00am  **Morning Prayer live-stream**      8:00pm  **Mid-Week Meditation**

**Rector**    The Reverend John Stephens  john.stephens@sjs.net
**Assistant Priest**    The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz  erceliz@vst.edu

Pastoral Care Team Coordinator    Helen Kline
Rector’s Warden    Judith Downes
People’s Warden    Maggie Sanders
Treasurer    Donald Wood
Property Trustee    Michael Dezell
Vestry Clerk    The Reverend Karin Fulcher
Music Director    Michael Dirk  organist@sjs.net
Choir Director    Ann Chen
Children’s Ministry    Annabelle Ip
Parish Administrator    Janet Hamilton
PWRDF Rep    Doug Symons
Verger/caretaker    Regan Gorman

Please email the office if you would like to have newsletters sent to you.
Newsletters, leaflets and online videos are posted on the website.

**St John’s Shaughnessy Anglican Church**
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Offices are closed, but staff are working from home.
Email and voice mail are checked regularly and often, so please reach out.
Cover: Artist unknown