

From the Rector

This Sunday we have much to celebrate! A king has been crowned. It is Mother's Day. We have parishioners being confirmed and reaffirming their faith. And Bishop John will be with us! I hope you'll come and join in the festivities!

In addition to all this, the sixth Sunday of Easter is also traditionally known as Rogation Sunday. Rogation Days are technically the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday preceding Ascension Day. (That's this Thursday, May 18, if you've lost track of where we are in Easter season.) They likely evolved from the Roman festival of Robigalia, which prayed for the protection of the crop from mildew. Their Christian origin is often ascribed to St. Mamertius of Vienne in the fifth century, who ordered processional litanies to be sung when his diocese was threatened by volcanic eruptions. Rogation Days were adopted in England in the eighth century, and were observed with outdoor processions "beating the bounds" of the parish, walking around the perimeter of the geographic area of the parish and blessing the fields.¹

The readings and prayers prescribed for Rogation Days emphasize fruitful seasons, as we pray for the coming harvest. In addition, they call to mind the reality that, as we say in a beautiful prayer at compline, "Our common life depends upon each other's toil." The poet George Herbert interpreted the Rogation procession as a means of asking for God's blessing on the land, of preserving boundaries, of encouraging fellowship between neighbours with the reconciling of differences, and of charitable giving to the poor.² We pray, therefore, not just for the earth and its crops, but for all those who work in agriculture and fishing, as well as for ourselves, that we might be good and responsible stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.



¹ Leonel Mitchell, *Pastoral and Occasional Liturgies: A Ceremonial Guide* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield), 41.

² The Church of England, *Common Worship* ([https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-4#:~:text=The%20Rogation%20Days%20\(from%20the,of%20Easter%20in%20Common%20Worship\).](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-4#:~:text=The%20Rogation%20Days%20(from%20the,of%20Easter%20in%20Common%20Worship).))

If you are a gardener, I'd like to invite you to bring something with you that symbolizes your garden. Perhaps you have seeds or bulbs to be planted, whether outdoors or in a countertop herb garden. Or maybe you would like to bring a small tool or some gardening gloves. You could even bring a container of soil (just please make sure it's sealed tightly!). At the end of the service, Bishop John will be delighted to bless the symbols of our labour as we pray for God's blessing upon the growing season ahead.

Love,

Mother Terry+

Dear Abbey,

I notice that when we do the prayers each Sunday, some people get prayed for every week, while other (to me) more urgent needs don't get mentioned.

Just wondering!

Dear Wondering,

Ah, this is always a conundrum, isn't it? Perhaps it is why Paul tells us to pray without ceasing—because the needs in the world are simply too great, and there is more to pray for than there are hours to pray! But in thinking about how we pray when we gather for Holy Eucharist, perhaps a bit of background on the Prayers of the People, in general, would be helpful.

The Prayers of the People have been included in Eucharist since the earliest times. However, at some point in the Middle Ages, they fell away from regular use in the liturgy, surviving only in the form of the lengthy intercessory prayers in the Good Friday liturgy, and in an abbreviated form within the Roman Canon. In the English Reformation, Thomas Cranmer incorporated many of the elements of the earlier intercessory prayers in the "Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church." This included prayers for the universal church, the king and his council, ministers and members of the church, the sick and those in trouble or sorrow, and commemoration of the saints and the faithful departed.

The liturgical reforms of the twentieth century saw the restoration of the Prayers of the People, with an emphasis on deacons and lay people as the proper leaders of these prayers. The Book of Alternative Services outlines six areas for which we are called to offer intercessions: the Church, those in authority, the world, the local community, those in need, and the departed. You will notice that each Sunday, while the words we choose may vary, this is the basic shape of our intercessions.

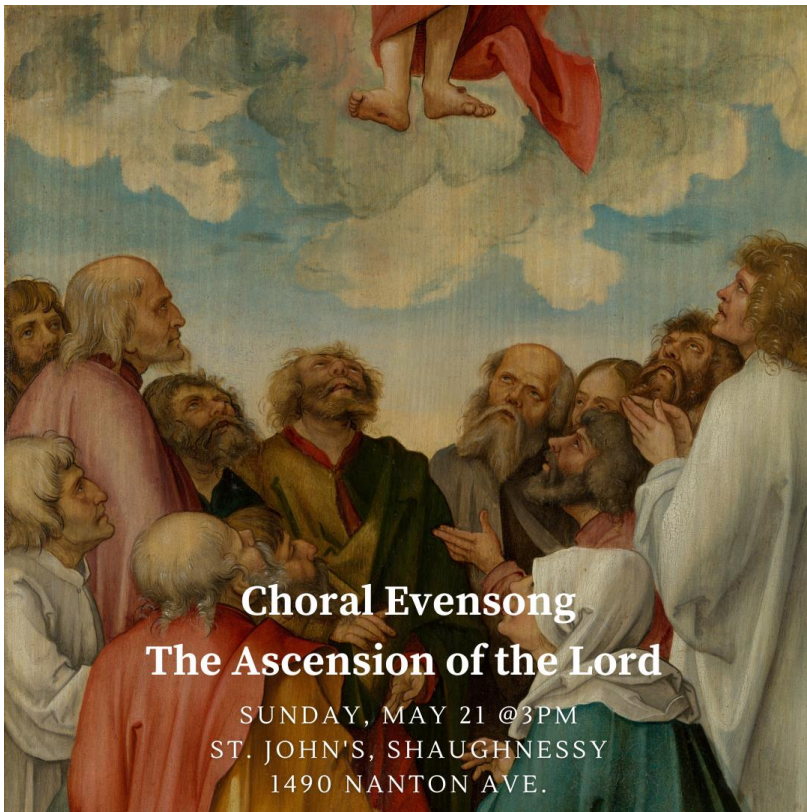
Within our prayers for the Church, Anglicans tend to follow calendars of intercessions called “cycles of prayer.” The Anglican Cycle of Prayer concentrates on the provinces throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, while the cycle of prayer in our own diocese ensures each of the parishes and a variety of ministries in the diocese are lifted up in prayer. In addition, we always pray for our Anglican leaders—the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Primate and the National Indigenous Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada; and our own bishop. We also pray for our companion diocese, the Diocese of Northern Philippines.

The prayers for the sick and those in need are intended to incorporate a wide variety of specific concerns of the congregation—concerns for individuals as well as more general topics (the victims of an earthquake, the hungry, etc.). I encourage you to take advantage of the prayer request sheet in the narthex and add those people and situations that are on your heart and your mind. The intercessor will then incorporate those petitions into the prayers of the community.

It can be overwhelming, trying to remember everything and everyone in prayer each week. This is where we see the importance of our own personal prayers, day to day. Some people even like to keep a prayer journal, in which they write down the names of those for whom they want to pray so that they don’t forget. (Isn’t it a terrible feeling, when we tell someone we will pray for them, and then later we realize we have forgotten?) Yet, Paul reminds us so beautifully, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”

Warmly,
Abbey

Do you have a question about church, liturgy, Anglicanism, etc.? Is there something you’ve always wanted to ask but thought you should already know? Send those questions to Mother Terry at terry.dirbas@sjs.net. All questions will remain anonymous.



Choral Evensong The Ascension of the Lord

SUNDAY, MAY 21 @3PM
ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY
1490 NANTON AVE.

Choral Evensong and Organ Recital

May 21 at 3pm

Join us May 21 for a festive choral evensong in observance of the feast of the Ascension. Our musicians will offer beautiful music, including works of William Smith, T.A. Walmisley, C.V. Stanford, Olivier Messaien, and more! The service will conclude with a Solemn Te Deum in thanksgiving for the Ascension as well as for the coronation of King Charles III. Seasonal libations will follow, as always.

Another special treat: our evensong and reception will be followed by an organ recital! Isaac Howie, semi-finalist in the RCCO National Organ Competition, will offer a free organ recital for our enjoyment.

Vancouverite Isaac Howie has always loved making music. A student of piano and composition since early childhood, his musical career has included founding a jazz trio; composing and performing for concert bands; publishing electronic music; and winning awards for solo piano. He entered the University of British Columbia at 15, where he currently studies organ under the mentorship of Professor Michael Dirk. Alongside his pursuit of a BMus, Isaac is Organist at Holy Family Parish in Vancouver; he holds an ARCT in piano and studies harpsichord with Alex Weimann. In 2021, Isaac was division winner of the Vancouver Chamber Choir's Young Composers' Competition. In his spare time, Isaac enjoys building computers and translating Ancient Greek texts.





Small Group for Spiritual Practice Living Water

May 23 - June 20 (5 Tuesdays)
7:00pm - 8:00pm

in person at St. John's Shaughnessy
Facilitated by James Hwang and Karin Fulcher

Using scriptures and literature related to the metaphor of water, we will find God in our hearts and within our daily lives.

It will be a time for us to revisit our spiritual thirst, stillness of mind, changes of life, healing, and prayer throughout the 5 week course.

Each session will last about an hour and involve reflection and sharing.

Please register: jhwang@sjs.net



Looking for something this summer for kids? Always wished there was a place to invite families over the summer to grow deeper in faith, play in community, and grow together in love? Aspire Bible Camp is coming this summer, and we want you! This collaborative offering of a

vacation bible camp, spearheaded by Lauren Odile Pinkney, Children, Youth and Family Minister at Christ Church Cathedral and Diocesan Missioner for Youth and the Reverend. Alex Wilson Vicar of St. Anselm's, seeks to offer an accessible vacation bible camp experience for parishes of any size.

Partnering with **the Reverend Terry Dirbas at St. John's Shaughnessy** and the Reverend Laurel Dykstra of Salal and Cedar, Aspire Bible Camp runs from July 17-21, and is made possible by grant funding from the diocesan Anglican Initiatives Fund and the Parish Ministry Development department Together we will hire youth to help deliver the program, working alongside mentors, as they develop their own leadership while engaging with kids of all backgrounds. We can't wait for what is going to be a summer of real fun together!

Have a passion for ministry with kids, training in *Godly Play* or *Messy Church*, or know of a youth/young adult who might want to work with us? [Contact Lauren by email to find out more.](#)

Parishes are invited to participate in the drop off and pick up, as well as hosting snack times. This will give them the ability to engage with the parents and celebrate the joys of kids learning together about Jesus.

Registration opens now, and the \$75 fee gives kids a limited edition Aspire Bible Camp T-shirt and snacks everyday. We ask that participants bring their own lunches.



The St John's WANM indoor team is looking for another team member. Specifically, this person will be added to the roster of people that coordinate with the outdoor team. This means very occasionally attending at the parish on a Saturday morning for an hour or so and handing our packets and lunches to the outdoor team.

WNM items for Homeless Needed

Thank you so much for your kind donations!

We are **low on protein** (small cans of tuna or chicken), and as always, **socks**. We are quite well stocked at the moment for other items.



SJS Prayer List

If you request that someone's name be added to the prayer list, please keep in touch with us. At the end of each month, all names will be removed, so you will need to add the names again at the end of each month. Please also let us know if you want someone removed from the list. Email the office (church@sjs.net) anytime! Thank 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 and financial giving is certainly one.

If you would like to give via monthly Pre-Authorized Donations (easy to change and easy to cancel), please contact Ann in the office (church.office@sjs.net or 604-731-4966).

If you would like to give to the church using a credit card, please use the DONATE button on our website (Canada Helps on top of page one, and Paypal on the bottom of page one). Cheques may be mailed or dropped through the church mail.

ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector terry.dirbas@sjs.net
The Reverend James Hwang, Curate jhwang@sjs.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assisting Priest
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, Honorary Deacon
The Reverend Pitman Potter, Honorary Deacon
Michael Dirk, Music Director organist@sjs.net
Jaime Yoon, Interim Choir Director jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net
Ann Houghton, Interim Parish Administrator church.office@sjs.net
Patrick Mahon, Verger

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector
Ken Pepin, Rector's Warden
Joan Stewart, People's Warden
Mike Dezell
Catherine Holmen



1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2
(604) 731-4966
www.sjs.net