



Situated on the ancestral and unceded land
of our brothers and sisters of the Semiahmoo First Nation



Parish News & Upcoming Events

May 19, 2023

THE TIME IN-BETWEEN by the Rev. Joseph Dirbas

When I read the scripture, I often try to imagine the experience of those we read about. I wonder what it was like walking with Jesus through Galilee, watching him cure the sick, seeing him raise the dead, hearing him preach the good news, and witnessing him embody, in a deeply and truly incarnational way, the love of God.



I imagine what it must have felt like for the disciples when they watched their friend, their teacher, beaten by Roman soldiers and nailed to a cross. I wonder about the despair and doubt that went through their minds when they saw him die and his body laid in a tomb. And I wonder the exhilaration of the moment when they discovered he had risen from the dead. The moment of awakening when they suddenly understood what it was that Jesus was saying to them during his last few days as they journeyed toward Jerusalem.

There was hope and energy. Jesus has returned. He is here with us, more powerful than ever, resurrected, and glorified. And I can imagine their eagerness to see the kingdom restored, the power of the Messiah to overthrow the rulers of this world. The resurrected Jesus was with them for 40 days. As they communed with the risen Christ, we know from the scriptures they questioned when the promises of God would be granted. Jesus tells them, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." And then, just like that, he is gone again, ascended into heaven.

The author of Acts doesn't say much about the disciples' response, but I can't help but think they were probably once again disappointed and dumbfounded. Now what? He's gone again? Where do we go? What do we do? What did he mean when he said we will be witnesses to the whole world? How are we going to do that without him?

The disciples are in this in-between time. As they wait for clarity and understanding of their mission. They have been given a commission and aren't sure how to act upon it. They are

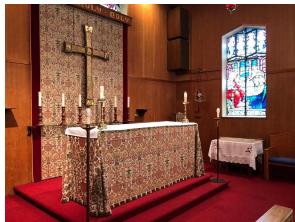
uncertain of their role, their power, their authority, their courage, and their ability to continue the mission that Jesus began, a mission instituted by God at the beginning of creation, the promise of bringing the created order to unity with God.

I'm sure we've all experienced similar feelings. I'm sure we all, as individuals and as a church community, have received a commission to be ambassadors of God's love and wondered how we are to accomplish that work. But we know what the disciples, at that moment, had yet to discover. We know the power of the Holy Spirit. We know the gift of God as comforter, advocate, wisdom, and companion who fills our hearts with joy and encourages us in our ministry to proclaim God's love to all people.

When we are in that in-between time of having a clear vision and directive of what we are to do and we wonder how we can do it, perhaps we can be like the apostles. They gathered in prayer in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We can gather in prayer with the knowledge that the Spirit is alive and active in each one of us. And, with that knowledge, we can begin the work we've been given.

In-between times are fruitful. They lead us to prayer. They invite us to trust in our God and saviour. And, as our world remains in an in-between time as we await God's kingdom, may we be steadfast in prayer. May we continue to proclaim the Good News. And, may we, with courage and hope, allow the power of the Holy Spirit to equip and enable us to be God's love in the world.

SUNDAY SERVICE LIVESTREAM



Follow the links below to the livestream and
bulletins for
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Easter 7

[Livestream](#)

[Bulletin](#)

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who participate in the Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday evening. It was a beautiful service!

And, special thanks to Fr. Stephen Laskey who gave a wonderful sermon and Mother Terry Shields Dirbas who chanted a beautiful gospel.



LOOSE CHANGE IN THE PLATE

We encourage you to place any or all of your loose change in the



offering plates as they are passed during the service. All loose change will be collected and donated to the Food Bank. If your change is intended as a contribution to the parish, please use one of the pink envelopes in the pew racks. And, if you aren't prepared to place anything in the plates, please don't be concerned. Simply pass the plate to your neighbor. God bless you!

FOOD BANK SUNDAY - MAY 21

We'll be collecting food for the Sources Community Services Food Bank this Sunday, May 21. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items to church on Sunday morning. We'll collect those items and place them at the altar and we will bless them just before our celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Suggested items for donation include:

- Canned Protein (Tuna, Salmon, Chicken, Ham, Chili, *etc.*)
- Rice
- Rolled Oats
- Peanut Butter
- Powdered Milk
- Whole Wheat Pasta
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- 100% Fruit Juice



Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Please note: Due to food safety, the Food Bank cannot accept items that have been opened/compromised or are 12 months past their expiry/best before date.

NEWCOMERS' LUNCH

This Sunday, May 21, is our Newcomers' Lunch!

All newcomers are invited to join us for lunch in Griffiths Hall following our 10:00 a.m. service. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the parish and to get to know one another.

Please note: our normal coffee hour will be held in the library on May 21 to allow room for the newcomers' lunch in Griffiths Hall.



PENTECOST CELEBRATION

May 28th is Pentecost. We'll celebrate God's gift of the



WEAR RED
FOR
PENTECOST
SUNDAY

Holy Spirit with song and prayer. We encourage you to wear red symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit which alit on the heads of the disciples.

Our 10:00 a.m. service will include a baptism and will also be a “Family Sundays.” On Family Sundays, children and youth are encouraged to remain in the church throughout the service, there will be a children’s sermon, and youth and children will participate in the service. Youth will also be invited to come up to the front and get a front row seat for the baptism!

This is a perfect service to invite your family and neighbours to attend. It will be joy-filled and, with our Easter celebration in April, bookends the season of Easter. Let’s see if we can fill the church for this amazing feast day!

PARISH PICNIC



We hope to see you there!

As you plan on attending,
please bring garden chairs and pop up tents / umbrellas / sunscreen
and
please bring food and beverages for yourself and your family.
BBQs are permitted if you wish to grill on site!

THE BISHOP IS COMING!

The Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster, will be making his pastoral visit to the Church of Holy Trinity on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

This is a special day in the life of our parish. We will witness

the confirmation liturgy, the investiture of Helen Davison in the ODNW, and fellowship with the bishop following both the 8 at 10 a.m. services. And, it's also Father's Day!

If you or someone you know might have questions about or be considering Confirmation, Reception in the Anglican Church, or making a public reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, please contact Fr. Joe. He'll be happy to work with you and your family to prepare for these rites.



MARMALADE SALES BEGIN TRINITY SUNDAY



Marmalade sales will begin on **June 4, after our 10:00 a.m. service.** The cost is \$6/jar and any additional contributions are greatly appreciated! Be sure to give a special thank you to all those who participated in its preparation.

AN UPDATE FROM SYNOD

Fr. Joe, Robin Inglis, and Mary Ponsford represented the Church of the Holy Trinity as your delegates to the 2023 Synod of Diocese of New Westminster on May 12 and 13. It was two full days of church business, ministry reports, discernment about diocesan priorities, and discussion of the report and recommendations from the Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability. Mary Ponsford shares the following notes and reflections:

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" John 10:10b
The 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster
In-Person at the Italian Cultural Centre
May 12-13, 2023



Notes from the 122nd Synod on May 12 -13, 2023

Fr Joe, Robin Inglis and I spent 2 (glorious) days at Diocesan Synod in the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, with about 250 other Anglicans. Our new Bishop John Stevens presided. His cheerful easygoing demeanour set the tone for a well paced and fairly interesting couple of days. There was a lot of housekeeping, many reports and appointments, praying and singing, but here are a few things I found especially interesting:

The most engaging speaker, I thought, told us about his work as the chaplain to VGH. Rev. Bryan Rivers seemed so passionate and fulfilled in his ministry. He had very touching stories about how his little calling card, a picture of the Good Shepherd with the 23rd psalm inside, which he gives to patients, produced results above "what we might ask or imagine". He gave each of us one to pass on to a sick friend.

A Main Event was the report by the **Task Force on Homelessness** in our diocese, a huge area stretching from Powell River to White Rock, and from Tsawwassen to Hope. A map included in the 40-page document showed detailed numbers of homeless in each

municipality. WR=16, Surrey= 644, Vancouver=2,095, Langley=209, are a few examples. I think there are more than 9,500 documented homeless people in our diocese. ***A lot of attendees at Synod see it their Christian duty to do something to relieve some of this suffering.***

Another notable report, on a related topic, came from the **Diocesan Property Development Committee**. Because our diocese **is one of the largest holders of valuable land in the province**, we are in a position to do something about homelessness. **But it is easier said than done!!** Efforts to get involved in sheltered housing projects have been in the pipeline for 15 years. There are just so many obstacles to success! Some speakers told tales of their failed efforts in the past, and some of more recent disappointments. There certainly is the will, if we can find the way. I wonder if our present leadership will make it happen?

There were light and fun moments at Synod too: An **offertory collection** was taken up for the Downtown East Side. The bishop had wagered it would net \$8000, while the archdeacon expected just \$6500. A friendly rivalry ensued throughout the synod as to who would be right. The sale of 6 rather ordinary potted orchids was used to top up the collection. These plants were auctioned off *with style and pizzazz* by the chancellor, George Cadman. I never saw such expensive flowers! They went for \$170 up to \$250 each, as rival bidders lost their minds (and showed off) paying ridiculous prices for \$30 plants, amidst lots of cheering and mirth. The bishop won!

My take-away hope is that we, as a diocese, find a way to use our valuable and underused real estate resources to house at least some of the needy. I really think we should.

Mary Ponsford

Alternate Synod Delegate

For more information, you can find the Synod Convening Circular and the report from the Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability by following the links below.

[Diocesan Circular](#)

[Task Force Report](#)

GOALS, BIG IDEAS, AND SOME IMMEDIATE NEEDS

On **June 4**, we will present a summary of the Big Hairy Audacious Goals we received at our Annual Vestry Meeting. Each parishioner will be invited to place a sticker on the goals identifying which one(s) you believe are priorities. More information to come!

**Glory to God whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**





KWOMAIS POINT LABYRINTH EXCURSION



The 'Geminis' and others had a wonderful time at the Eagles Nest labyrinth in Kwomais Point Park on May 12th. It was a beautiful sunny morning with just the right amount of shade for labyrinth walking. We had a picnic lunch after our exertions.

We'll be planning other outings here and hope that others will join us so watch for a posting in this newsletter and on the bulletin board!



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to share your gifts in ministry with the church? We've got two wonderful opportunities for you!

Service Ministry / Outreach Team: If you have a heart for service, this is the ministry for you. We have ample funds to do some real and tangible work in the world from offering parents' days out to preparing meals for our homeless brothers and

sisters. We invite you to join us. Please let Fr. Joe know if you are interested. He'll connect you to the right folks!



Children's Chapel / Youth Formation: Every Sunday we offer Children's Chapel for the little ones in our congregation. If you like to teach and are interested in serving with a dedicated group of volunteers, this just may be the ministry for you. Please let Fr. Joe know if you are interested or if you have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CHURCH

May 18 – Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Ascension, 7:00 p.m.

Guest preacher: The Rev. Stephen Laskey, Interim Priest, St. Mark's.
(Please note: there will be no Thursday morning service on May 18.)

May 21 – Newcomers' Lunch

All newcomers to the parish are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship and to learn more about the parish and our ministries.

May 25, 9:30 a.m. - Thursday Morning Eucharist

May 28 – Pentecost! Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - Wear RED as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the "Birthday of the Church!"

June 1, 9:30 a.m. - Thursday Morning Eucharist

June 4 – Trinity Sunday – Festival of Title

June 4. 5:00 p.m. – Trinity Sunday Evensong

June 8, 9:30 a.m. - Thursday Morning Eucharist

June 10 – Church of the Holy Trinity Parish Picnic

We'll gather at Crescent Park as we enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship.

June 18 – Bishop's Visit

THURSDAY MORNING EUCHARIST



Our Next Thursday Morning Eucharist
is May 25 at 9:30 a.m.
All are welcome!

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Choral Evensong and Organ Recital May 21 at 3pm St. John's, Shaughnessy

Join us this Sunday afternoon, May 21, for a festive choral evensong in observance of the Ascension of our Lord. The St. John's, Shaughnessy choir will offer beautiful music, including works of William Smith, T.A. Walmisley, C.V. Stanford, Olivier Messiaen, and more! Seasonal libations will follow. All are welcome!

Following the reception, we will also enjoy an organ recital by Isaac Howie, semi-finalist in the RCCO National Organ Competition. His program will include works by Franck, Allwood, Bach, and more. Read more about Isaac [here](#).



With the Rev. Scott Gunn
Executive Director of Forward Movement
Saturday, June 10, 9am-12pm at Christ Church Cathedral

Do you love your church? Do you wish it was easier to share your faith? Fear not! The Rev. Scott Gunn will lead us in exploring some practical and inviting ways we can all share our faith with others.

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



Bach / Mozart - Hidden Gems
Presented by: The Handel Society of Music
Friday, May 19th, 7:30 p.m.
Peninsula United Church
2756 127 St, Surrey

For Tickets, visit: <https://www.showpass.com/bach-mozart-hidden-gems/>

Please Note:
The Celebration of Summer in Music and Song event scheduled for June 3 at Mount Olive Church **has been postponed**. Stay tuned for more information.

A Celebration of Summer in Music & Song

A fund-raising concert
for READ Surrey/White Rock
featuring

the internationally renowned Bergmann Duo



www.bergmann-duo.com

with Mount Olive Lutheran Church's
Pastor Lori-Anne, singer/songwriter



June 3, 2023 at 7:00pm
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
2350-138 St. South Surrey

First come, first served.
Donations accepted at the door.

All proceeds support READ Surrey/White Rock
Society's literacy programs.



Do you want to
make a difference?

Are you up for
a rewarding and
challenging experience?



We are recruiting volunteer adult literacy tutors for Fall 2023



Virtual Volunteer Information Sessions
Thursday, May 25, 2023
7:00 pm

The Partners Tutoring Program offers free one-to-one tutoring to adult learners. Potential volunteers must be adults with excellent written and oral English.

Join us to learn:

- * what the program is
- * what you can expect as a volunteer
- * the commitment
- * how to apply

Register: Email adulit@readsurreywhiterock.com to
receive Zoom meeting link.

Supported by the Province of BC,
Decoda Literacy Foundation,
North Delta Rotary Club



778-242-READ (7323)
readsurreywhiterock.com

TRUSTEES AND PARISH COUNCIL

Below is the list of elected and appointed positions for 2023:

Trustees

Father Joseph Dirbas (Rector)
Robin Inglis (Rector's Warden & Synod Delegate)
Jacqueline Sephton (People's Warden)
Erin Hallenburg (Finance)
John Davison (Property)

Parish Council

Nigel Cole (Media & Communications & Synod Delegate)
Susan Cummings (Pastoral Care)
Helen Davison (Treasurer)
Carol De Boeck (Community Services)
Fran Fagan (Stewardship & Alternate Synod Delegate)

Patrick Finch (Internet & Communications)
Susan Lazar (Worship)
Mary Ponsford (Alternate Synod Delegate)
The Rev. Paul Richards (Screening in Faith Administrator)
Cindy Thornton-Veltri (Formation)
Veronica Wright (Community Services)

Secretary of the Corporation

Bonnie Gosselin

Please join in thanking all these wonderful people for their leadership.

CONTACT US

Feel free to contact your church staff and lay leaders if you have any questions!

Staff

The Reverend Joseph Dirbas, Rector - jdirbas@holytrinitywhiterock.ca
The Reverend Paul Richards, Deacon - prichards@holytrinitywhiterock.ca
Bonnie Gosselin, Parish Administrator - bgosselin@holytrinitywhiterock.ca

Lay Leaders

Robin Inglis - rectors.warden@holytrinitywhiterock.ca
Jacqueline Sephton - peoples.warden@holytrinitywhiterock.ca
Helen Davison - treasurer@holytrinitywhiterock.ca
Ron Dicks - envelopes@holytrinitywhiterock.ca

General Info

office@holytrinitywhiterock.ca

Questions about Church or Liturgy

abbey@holytrinitywhiterock.ca



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Find and follow us on Instagram: htcwhiterock
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www.facebook.com/holytrinitywhiterock



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