

Dear friends of St. Paul's,

Another story from Father Phil Sherlock, may God rest his soul. Just before I began my internship year with him, (about 30 years ago) he took a short sabbatical program in Dublin Ireland. Most of his time in class was spent writing postcards back home. They were all the same- a completely black picture with the caption, "Ireland at night."

Now occasionally he actually paid attention to the speakers and he was very much impressed with a Dominican priest by the name of Herbert McCabe. His favourite McCabe quote, *"It is the role of the priest to keep the rumour of God alive."* To keep the rumour of God alive.

Today as we look at the situation in our church and in the greater community the rumour is becoming more and more faint. The discovery of the unmarked graves of the children at the Kamloops residential school, the deaths of the lovely Muslim family in London, Ontario, the ongoing suffering of the Covid pandemic, they all suppress the rumour that God is alive.

I am now in the home stretch of my departure from St. Paul's. Reflecting on McCabe's words I do believe that the role of the priest is more than keeping the rumour of God alive; it is to enflame the rumour so that it grows into an ever-greater certainty. I pray that I have been able to accomplish that mission in some small way.

Our Gospel reading for this Sunday (Mark 4:26-34) will speak of the Kingdom of God. It is like the scattered seed that grows while the farmer is unaware; it is like the mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds that grows into the greatest of shrubs. Let us pray that the small seeds of the kingdom may grow within us so that the rumour of God may grow into a firm and abiding faith.

#### **Announcements:**

- **With the latest government announcement we are now allowed to have indoor services capped at 15% capacity. Masses begin on Friday morning June 11th at 9am and the regular mass schedule will ensue after that. For the Lord's Day Masses please go to the parish website to reserve your spot. For weekday Masses we will require you to sign in for contact tracing purposes but there is no need to register.**

- **Friday June 11th is the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is a special day of prayer for priests. After the Friday morning Mass we will have one hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with benediction.**
- **Since the beginning of May the members of the Catholic Women's League have been praying the rosary on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. This Tuesday they will do so after the 7pm Mass in church. It will be a living rosary and all are invited.**
- **Moving day for the priests is June 30<sup>th</sup>. On our last Sunday here, we will have a drive by farewell from 2-4 pm in front of the church. Unfortunately, we cannot have any form of social event. Details will be posted on the website in the coming days.**
- **We are in need of additional volunteers for greeting and ushering for the Sunday 9am Mass. If you are able to help out once a month or so please contact Arden Ouellette, [stpaulcyo@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulcyo@gmail.com) for more information.**

**Sunday Mass will be broadcast on our parish Facebook page at 9am.**

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulTheApostleBurlingtonOntario/>

**Masses are later posted to our parish YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtcCWZCjIwHgX4D4EJI169w/videos>