

## Interim Rector's Letter March 2016

Dear Parishioners and friends of the Church of the Transfiguration,

Our first two weeks in New York and at the Church have been mildly hectic! The three of us have suffered from colds or flu and, for the first time, I suffered from a serious bout of jetlag from which I'm only now emerging. Nevertheless, we have loved being here in Manhattan and at Transfiguration.

By the time you receive this letter we will have passed mid-Lent Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, which is known in the UK and Australia as 'Mothering Sunday'. The secular version of Mother's Day may have sprung from this but has little to do with the religious meaning. Sundays are always 'feast Days' in the church when we celebrate the resurrection so Lenten discipline is relaxed on Sundays. Lent is forty days **not** counting Sundays and I'm amazed just how many people think Sundays are a part of Lent. Whatever hair-shirting is to be done in Lent it shouldn't occur on a Sunday! So if you have given up something, chocolate, alcohol, coffee etc, you can indulge on Sunday – we are, after all resurrection people.

The Quiet Day is over and for the next two weeks in the scriptures we follow the path of the young man from Nazareth on the road that leads inexorably to Jerusalem. The program for Easter Services is similar to previous years and the details will be available in the bulletins and with this letter. I do hope you can make it to many of the services in Holy Week and not only reflect on how your life is intertwined with God in this figure of the Nazarene, but also have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the church through the gifts of flowers and Music. If you wish to donate an offering for either the music or flowers, for yourself or in memory of others, please use an envelope designed for the purpose or send the donation to Maya, the Parish Assistant, in the Office.

I have a tradition of cleaning the church on Holy Saturday. I hope a large number of parishioners will join me in giving our beautiful building a thorough clean so it is in pristine condition for greeting the Risen Lord. It would be wonderful if you could give an hour or two or four on Holy Saturday morning. The 'Working Bee' will begin about 8.30 and go until about 12.30 when there will be hot dogs etc provided for lunch. Please bring along cleaning rags, wood polish and anything else you think may help. The floors will be done before hand but there is so much more to be cleaned and many hands make light work – besides it's fun to do these things together. It is an exercise in community building as well as a practical way to show our love for an historic and sacred building.

Following the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening at 6:30pm you are all invited to an Easter Party in the Rectory. You are encouraged to bring food to share and I ask you to liaise with Lee Alderson who is handling the hospitality arrangements.

I gather the Search Committee is very pleased at the number of people who filled out the survey for the new Rector and attended the Town Hall meeting, which surprisingly to me, was held not at the Town Hall but in the Chapel. The information gathered will assist the Committee in updating the Parish Profile. This is an important document required by the Diocese that will eventually be read by prospective candidates for the position. Thank you to all who participated and if you any concerns or suggestions please feel free to speak to members of the Committee or the Wardens.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Holy Week and Easter Services. May the Risen Christ fill your hearts and minds this Easter Season.

Blessings,

The Revd Dr R. M. Noone  
Interim Rector