St Hilary's Weekly Email Updates, Announcements and Bulletins for services on March 8th.

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- **Black History Celebration 2026**
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- **Daylight Saving Time 2026**

  Daylight Saving Time starts this weekend. Please click here for info.

- **Black History Celebration 2026**

Here is a photo from our Celebration of Black History Month 2026. Aren't we beautiful!

- **Letter to the Diocese from Bishop Andrew, February 27**

Dear Friends,

Almsgiving. When I consider the ways we are to approach the season of Lent – with self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving – I often think that the last discipline can get forgotten.

Society at large and we in the Church are very good at almsgiving around Christmastime. Parish treasurers will know that donations generally pour in at the end of the calendar year. And everyone feels generous as they spend money on gifts for those they love, and therefore try to extend that generosity beyond family and friends to the poor and those in need.

Lent reminds us that almsgiving is a spiritual exercise that can prepare us for Holy Week and Easter, as we bear in mind the brokenness of the world and the ways that we are called to help alleviate suffering.

To this end, I have designated, and Synod Council has approved, a special Lenten Appeal for your consideration, as you reflect on your almsgiving this holy season.

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on Oct. 28, 2025, resulting in profound devastation. Fifty-four people lost their lives, 109 were injured, and widespread flash flooding destroyed critical infrastructure and threatened livestock. Most heartbreaking for the Church is the destruction of approximately half of the island's houses of worship, leaving many communities without their spiritual homes at the very moment when faith, prayer and fellowship are most needed.

I have spoken with the Bishop of Jamaica, the Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, who said, "the needs on the ground are so great. While many of the church buildings have been heavily damaged, the first priority is restoring the electricity and water supply, and rebuilding schools and homes."

In moments such as this, Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40 speak with clarity and urgency: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did for me." The call is not abstract. When churches lie in ruins and families gather without shelter, we are compelled not only to pray, but to act.

This tragedy also illustrates our growing vulnerability to extreme weather events, a reality increasingly linked to climate change and consistent with the concerns raised in this year's social justice vestry motion.

I am so pleased and proud to announce that to strengthen this effort and encourage broad participation, the FaithWorks Allocations Committee is offering a dollar-for-dollar matching challenge of up to $50,000, with the goal of raising at least $100,000 in total. All the funds we raise will be forwarded to Alongside Hope for distribution. Gifts may be made online at www.faithworks.ca or sent by mail to the Synod Office, 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON M5C 1L8.

I am especially grateful to the Rev. Canon Kenute Francis of St. Hilda, Fairbank, the Rev. Douglas Barnes of St. Thomas, Brooklin, and the Rev. Rory Honeyghan of St. Paul, Newmarket for promoting this cause among the West Indian community in our Diocese and for helping to identify areas of greatest need.

This time-limited campaign will conclude on April 17. Please share this Lenten Appeal as widely and as quickly as possible within your parish networks. Together during this holy season of Lent, we can restore sacred spaces, strengthen communities and bear witness to Christ's compassion in a time of profound need.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

- **Easter Memorial Flowers Envelopes**

  The brown envelopes are in the ends of the pews for your memorial donation for Easter flowers.

- **Lenten Donations**

  Our annual Lenten Donation program will begin this Sunday. Please pick up a pill bottle and bring back on Easter Sunday.

- **Lenten Studies**

"Christian Unity in a Fragmenting World"

Join us for a Lenten Study that will explore 'Christian Unity in a Fragmenting World'

We have just had the 1700th year celebration of the Council of Nicaea, where the Nicaean Creed was created – a central statement of faith for many Christians. It was a significant moment of shared history in our journey towards unity. Since then, paths have diverged with schisms, there have been the establishment of new churches and movements, and political strife around the world.

Join us as we discussed:

-renewing and deepening our commitment to unity

-the Church as a wounded healer

-racial justice

-interfaith relations

-journeying forward together in hope

Join us as we reflect on our ecumenical journey, our deepening relationships and what might be most relevant in our particular context.

Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 am on:

March 11
March 18
March 25

For those who are interested in participating in this discussion but not able to make it during the day an alternative time of Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm will be offered

The dates will be:

March 5
March 11
March 18
March 25

A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of the church over the next few weeks for those interested in a Thursday evening class. The class will go ahead, if interest is expressed. Thank you.

- **Youth Corner**

John 4: 5 - 42

"Help us, God, to see people as Jesus sees them. Amen."

Good morning! Have you ever been thirsty? When we are thirsty our throats and mouths get dry and maybe raw -- and we need something cool and wet to make it better. And if we don't drink something, then our bodies don't do too well. We don't feel well.

In a different way, our heart and mind and soul can also get thirsty for God's love. But you know what we sometimes do? We sometimes try to give our hearts, minds, and souls something else for that thirst. And that doesn't work out very well for us, just like eating crackers and piles of salt don't help a thirsty person.

In today's scripture story, this is the kind of thirst that Jesus is talking about with the woman at the well. The woman has been giving things to her thirsty heart, mind and

soul that left her feeling not very good. And Jesus knows this. Which is why he tells her, "Ask for living water so that you'll never be thirsty again."

And you know what? Because the woman at the well listened to Jesus, it helped her to know what her heart, mind and soul needed. Which made her so excited that when Jesus asked her to tell her neighbours about him she went and shared with everyone who was near her what she had learned. And that led to all of the people in the town choosing to go listen to Jesus. So, Jesus stayed there for two more days to talk to them about how they could receive God's love.

The same thing is true for us: As we listen to and learn from Jesus about God's love that our hearts and minds are thirsty for, then we can better receive God's love and share it with those around us.

“Thank you, God, that you see us as we really are and that you love us. Help us to see ourselves and each other in the same way you see us. Amen. “

(Adapted from*: rfour.org* and *Episcopal Church Lessons that Work*)

- **Special Services | Events**

Holy Week Services at St Hilary's

Palm Sunday

March 29th at 8:30am & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 3rd

10am Children's Program & 12pm Eucharist Service

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 4th at 8 pm

Easter Sunday

April 5th at 8:30am & 10:30 am

- **Reading The Bulletin on Your Smart Phone**

If you would like to read the bulletin on your Smart Phone, please follow these steps:

1. Go to sthilarys.com
2. Click on the menu icon
3. Click on Worship
4. Click on Worship Services
5. Scroll down to 'Download This Week's Bulletin'
6. Click on 'Click Here'
7. The bulletin will appear in PDF format for you to peruse

OR

Open Weekly Email and then click on the bulletin attachment.

Viewing on your phone is beneficial as you can zoom in on text to make it larger and easier to read and it saves paper!

- **YouTube Link**

Please click here to go to St Hilary's YouTube page.

- **Memorial Flowers & Aumbry Candle**

There are several open spots for the remainder of 2025 for Memorial Flowers and the Aumbry Candle.

Should you wish to kindly donate flowers in memory of a loved one, please contact Molly on 416 253 6443 or mollymangalathu@gmail.com. Please include who the memorial is for, who the memorial is from, the short message that you would like to have in the bulletin and the date you would like it to appear in the bulletin. An example of a bulletin message is: 'To the Glory of God and in Loving memory of Jane Doe, Grandmother of Anne Doe, and Great-Grandmother of Mary Doe, from her family.' Please note there is a $40 fee for this request.

To light the Aumbry Candle in memory of a loved one, please contact sthilaryscooksville@toronto.anglican.ca or 905 279 2304. A $5 donation fee is requested.

- **Giving to St Hilary's**

If you would like to donate you can do so by:

- Sending an e-transfer to sthilarycooksville@toronto.anglican.ca (please email us the password)
- Signing up to PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance). PAR is automatically withdrawn on a monthly basis and will go toward the area of your choosing.

We thank you for any contribution you are able to make.

For more information on giving, please call the church office at 905-279-2304.

- **Good News from Around the World**

Please click here to enjoy good news stories from around the world.

- **The Anglican News**

Click here to read the latest issue of the Anglican.

- **Diocese of Toronto**

Please click here to go to the Diocese of Toronto website for their latest news.

Thank you for reading and have a great weekend!