



# Connections

Volume 2

Number 3

January 1 to 15

2020

*We have seen his star in the East, and  
have come to worship him.* *Matthew 2:2*

## AREA BISHOP WILL VISIT CHRIST CHURCH ON JANUARY 12



**The Rt. Rev. Kevin  
Robertson, Bishop of  
York-Scarborough,  
Diocese of Toronto**

### **ABOUT OUR BISHOP**

Before being elected in 2016, Bishop Robertson was the incumbent of Christ Church Deer Park and the Regional Dean of Eglinton deanery. He previously served as the incumbent of St. Nicholas Birch Cliff; and St. Peter Oshawa.

Bishop Robertson has a Master of Divinity (Hons)

degree from Trinity College at the University of Toronto and a B.A. (Hons) from Huron College at the University of Western Ontario. He was ordained deacon in 1997 and priest in 1998. Bishop Robertson and his spouse Mohan have two children.

### **ABOUT OUR AREA**

There are about 60 parishes and mission areas in York-Scarborough, from the downtown core to north Toronto, and the eastern part of the city. There are three special ministries, St.

Monica, Flemingdon Park Ministry, and All Saints Sherbourne. Part of the storefront ministry in Flemingdon Park is to help newcomers to Canada cope with the complexities of a new culture and language. St. Monica is also a storefront ministry. With All Saints, Sherbourne, it serves the most vulnerable of our city.

York-Scarborough is a multicultural area and has a number of parishes in languages other than English. Out of the Cold programs and foodbanks are organized by several parishes. Here at Christ Church we serve through the Deacon's Cupboard, a monthly community meal, our backpack ministry, support of YouthLink and other needs as they arise.

Also in York-Scarborough are the Mission to Seafarers; and the New Hope Mandarin Ministry; as well as the Convent of the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine.

It is Bishop Robertson's episcopal responsibility to provide oversight and pastoral care to clergy and people in all these varied expressions of faith.



*We are asked to pray for our  
brothers and sisters in Christ*

Anne S, Annet K, Beverly B,  
Cathy N, Coreen L, David M,  
Deb A, Diane R, Florence S,  
Jeanette M, Jenille L, Joan N,  
Margaret R, Michelle B,  
Viggy M.

*Remember too those who are  
alone and those who mourn.*



On January 1 Christians celebrate the day Jesus was formally given his name. The name Jesus is derived from Hebrew, meaning "salvation" or "saviour".

At this time he was also circumcised, according to the custom of his people, making him a "son of the commandment", as required



## Ring out, wild bells

Alfred Lord Tennyson 1809-1892

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free.  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land.  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Contributed by Beverly Baird

## *Marguerite Bourgeoys - honoured for her work in early Montréal*

On January 12 we remember Marguerite Bourgeoys, founder of the first school in New France and a leading figure in the tiny colony that became Montréal. Born in France in 1620, taught poor children there for several years, until a



meeting with Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve, the Governor of Montreal, changed her life. De Maisonneuve was looking for a lay teacher for the children of the colonists and natives there.

She accepted his offer and sailed to Canada, to find a young colony

hardly big enough to be called a village. The Governor gave her a stone stable at the centre of the village, which she cleaned out and used to open the first school in Montréal. Before long, she needed help and returned to France to find teachers and bring them back to New France. The community life she led with these women was the basis for the famous religious community, the

Congregation de Notre Dame, which she founded.

Marguerite Bourgeoys did not stop at teaching the children; she also began a trade school to provide young women with the manual skills that would allow them to earn a living, and led teaching missions outside Montreal along the river.

Marguerite was not only a woman of intelligence; she was also a woman with a heart. She was a vital member of the early colony, godmother of several children and friend of the Filles du Roy (young women of good family brought to New France to marry the settlers). Marguerite Bourgeoys was canonized in 1982 and is now recognized by the Roman Catholic Church as St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. January 12, 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of her birth.



*Marguerite Bourgeoys*





*And they followed the star...*

## WHO WERE THE THREE WISE MEN?

The Three Kings, or Magi, are mentioned only in the Gospel of Matthew. Few details are given about them in the Bible, and most of our ideas about them really come from tradition or speculation.

Scripture does not say how many wise men there were, but it is assumed there were three, since legend says they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh - gold for a king, frankincense for God, and myrrh anoint the dead.

The title "Magi" refers to a Persian religious caste, but when Matthew's Gospel was written, the term was loosely used for astrologers, seers, and fortune tellers. Matthew does not call them kings; that title was used later, in legends.

The Magi were both real and symbolic. As symbols, they showed that Jesus came to save all people, rich and poor, learned or uneducated, from anywhere in the world.

These wealthy travelers were on the opposite end of the social and economic scale from the shepherds who had visited Jesus on the night of his birth and their faith was not that of the Jews.

We don't know where they came from or how long they travelled to reach Jesus. Matthew says only that these visitors came from "the east." However, they recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, meaning "Anointed One", while he was still a child. If they were scholars from Persia, they would have been familiar with Daniel's prophecy about the Messiah.

By the time they met Jesus, he was in a house and was a child, not an infant, implying that they arrived a year or more after his birth, but before Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt with him to escape Herod's murderous wrath.

As with many Biblical stories, we have put the Nativity and the visit of the Magi together over the centuries, but have not lost the essential truth. The word "epiphany" means "a sudden and profound understanding" and in Christian terms it means "the revealing of Christ to the Gentiles" as our Messiah.

With material from Zavala, Jack. "Meet the Three Kings - Wise Men From the East." 701082.

## New Year - New Ideas

When we launched **Connections** last May, we wanted to accomplish three goals:

- ◇ to reach by e-mail those people who do not see the weekly bulletin when they are not at the Sunday service,
- ◇ to offer information about saints and others the church commemorates or history remembers,
- ◇ to keep parishioners up-to-date on current events at Christ Church.

Now it's time to assess whether these goals are being reached. We need your help to do this.

Please take a couple of minutes to send us an e-mail (see address below) answering three questions about the articles in **Connections**:

- 1) What is most interesting/useful?
- 2) What is least interesting/useful?
- 3) What information should be added?



We appreciate the kind comments, suggestions and articles contributed by some of our readers. Please send us items you would like to see included. We can't promise to publish, but will try to make room for relevant material.

*Audrey, Editor*



### Scripture Readings

#### January 5

Isaiah 60: 1 to 6

Psalms 72: 1 to 14

Ephesians 3: 1 to 12

Matthew 2: 1 to 12

#### January 12

Isaiah 42: 1 to 9

Psalms 29

Acts 10: 34 to 43

Matthew 3: 13 to 17

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