

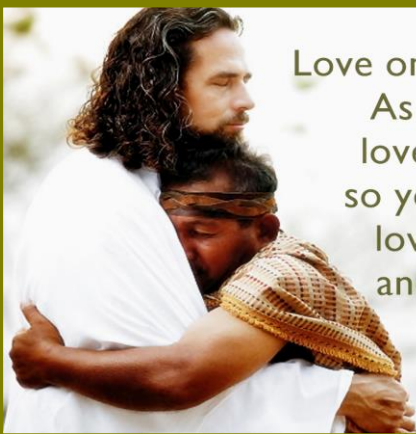
'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

Pentecost

As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.

~ **Friday June 11, 2021** ~



Love one another.
As I have
loved you,
so you must
love one
another.

John 13:34b

BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES,

if you have
Love
for one another
John 13:35

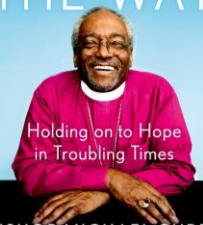
PEOPLE ARE
ILLOGICAL,
UNREASONABLE,
& SELF-CENTERED.
LOVE THEM
ANYWAY. ♥

God loves
me with a
love that is
increasing &
overflowing.
1 Thessalonians
3:12-13

Love Thy Neighbor
Thy Homeless Neighbor
Thy Muslim Neighbor
Thy Black Neighbor
Thy Gay Neighbor
Thy White Neighbor
Thy Jewish Neighbor
Thy Christian Neighbor
Thy Atheist Neighbor
Thy Racist Neighbor
Thy Addicted Neighbor



LOVE IS
THE WAY

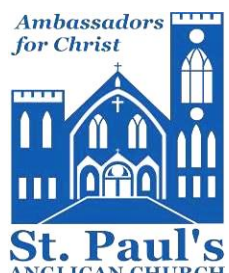


BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY

A "GRACE NOTE" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

"Sometimes, all you need is faith as big as a mustard seed & GOD will do the rest."

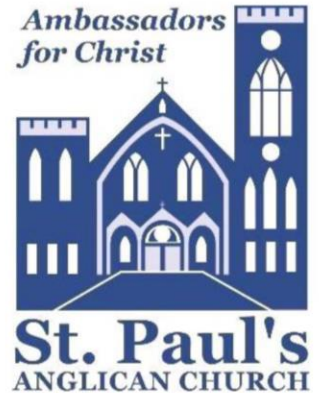
visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook



1. Rector's Grace Notes ~

**'Calls to Action' from the
Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)**

**Our Parish Response
June 2021**



Bishop Lydia Mamakwa dedicated our **Sacred Circle** in the west transept at St. Paul's on September 30th 2019, "Orange Shirt Day."

In 2015, the Canadian government released its final report on the history and legacy of Canada's residential school system. From that report came **94 Calls to Action**.

The *Anglican Church of Canada (ACC)* and the Parish of St. Paul's Anglican Church are committed to these Calls to Action which are relevant to our Faith Community in Thunder Bay. It is a spiritual journey and we are called to enter into reconciliation with each other, Indigenous and settler peoples. Jesus calls us to be unified and to be one ~

*"May they be one,
as we are one."*

John 17:11

May we dream and be open to the possibilities of building a better world for all of us. We are trying hard but we still have a lot to do. In July 2019, the ACC

created a self-determining Indigenous church and appointed **Archbishop Mark MacDonald** as the **National Indigenous Archbishop**.

The church strongly supports Indigenous rights and is striving to live in the actions of truth and of love. We are striving to follow this biblical imperative:

***“Let us love not in word or speech
but in truth and action.”***

(1 John 3:18)



Archbishop Mark MacDonald (centre, in purple)
at his appointment at General Synod 2019.

Several of the 94 Calls to Action relate specifically to the church. In 2015, the Anglican Church of Canada supported the TRC's Calls to Action. The ACC has hired **Melanie Delva** as *Reconciliation Animator* to help with the implementation of the Calls to Action. St. Paul's is working to meet the 4 Calls to Action that pertain to the church. A detailed overview of the actions taken to date will be published in September 2021.

June is ***National Indigenous History Month*** and we are honouring the 215 children whose remains were recently found on the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, all the children who did not make it home, and all residential school

survivors. We are thankful that September 30 has now been named as the ***“National Day for Truth & Reconciliation”*** as well as ***“Orange Shirt Day.”***



June 2021 Labyrinth Prayer Service in honour of the 'Kamloops 215' and their families, and all the children who never made it home from residential schools.

“National Indigenous Peoples Day” (June 21st of each year) is celebrated on the closest Sunday to June 21. At St. Paul’s, we honour this day with prayers in Cree and with active participation in the service with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. An **Indigenous Day Service of Prayer** will be held on Sunday, June 20 at 10 am (***YouTube / St. Paul’s Media***). The service will be available for viewing during the live-stream and afterwards.

We begin every Sunday morning service with a slide that states that *“We are worshipping on Robinson-Superior Treaty (1850) Territory, the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg.”* The slide includes the logo for the **Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP)**. In words from the ACIP, here is the meaning of the logo:



The **fish** at the centre of the logo is formed by the overlap of two circles — or two traditions — coming together, the Aboriginal tradition and the European tradition.

The point where they come together is where Christ is to be found, represented by both the **cross** and the **fish** (which also contains the form of the Greek letters, **Alpha** and **Omega**).

The **cross** is surrounded by the **four colours** of the four peoples of the world. Our vision is of all races coming together.

The **fish** and the **cross** also contain within them the initials of the **Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples**.

The **eagle** has always been a strong image for Aboriginal peoples. The **eagle feather** attached to the **cross** comes from Isaiah 40:31 — ***“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”*** If people can come together, they will fly.

The **green** in the logo represents our Mother Earth, and the **blue** the waters of the oceans that surround the continents.

Blue is also the colour of hope for Aboriginal people. When we are watching for good weather to come, we look for the first signs of blue in the sky.

Green is also the symbol of new growth.

Red is the colour of the Aboriginal peoples.



Orange Shirt on the steps of St. Paul’s.

Words from the **National Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald** ~

(Posted on his Facebook page, June 1, 2021)

“The Western institutions, including the churches, always tried to convince Indigenous peoples that they the West owned the truth, that it was their own unique possession and that only by becoming exactly like them could Indigenous People be saved. Now, we may say it clearly and for all time: this lie is dead, even for the institutions that believed and proclaimed it. Today, we seek healing and truth, Indigenous and non-Indigenous from God, who offers Forgiveness, Justice, and Truth in the Gospel, saying that it was for this, exactly for this, that Jesus was anointed.”



At St. Paul's, we are committed to walking together and working in unity. We have much to do.

“Let us not grow weary in doing what is right.”

(Galatians 6:9)



Diocesan Lay Reader Jessie McKay holds her Covenanted Certificate.

Church Sign.

St. Paul's flag is lowered to half-mast by **Jouni Kraft**.



Today, June 11 Is The Holy Day For St. Barnabas

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses." (Acts 2:32)

St. Barnabas was an apostle whom we honour every June 11 on his feast day. Barnabas was not one of the 12 disciples but was one of the earliest Christians in Jerusalem. Barnabus was from Cyprus and his name was originally 'Joseph.' The other apostles re-named him Barnabas which means **"Son of Encouragement."** He was a generous man and in the Book of Acts, we learn that he sold some land and gave it to the apostles in Jerusalem for the work of the church and to provide for the whole community. Barnabas introduced Paul, after his conversion, to the other apostles. Paul and Barnabas travelled together for a missionary journey but later, they had a falling out after their young travel companion Mark. Barnabas then returned to Cyprus with Mark and Paul continued his missionary journeys. We believe that Barnabas established the Christian church in Cyprus and was martyred there in 61 AD.

Have you ever thought of changing your name or did anyone change it for you? One of my childhood friends changed her name from 'Janice' to 'Lydia' because of her Christian beliefs. She did this decades ago and today, still feels close to the legacy of this woman, this merchant of expensive purple cloth, who was baptized by Paul in Philippi, Greece.



My story isn't nearly as exciting. My childhood name was 'Debbie.' When I started university I decided to change my name from Debbie to my baptismal name of 'Deborah.' To me, it sounded more grown-up! I wish I could tell you that I changed my name in order to honour the biblical leader of the Hebrews. This Deborah was a judge who ruled Israel while sitting under a palm tree (Judges 4). Although my husband Jouni only calls me Deborah, I am now quite happy with all the short forms. So take your pick and you are welcome to call me 'Debbie,' 'Deb,' or 'Deborah'!

Back to Barnabus ~ May our faithful God kindle in us the flame of love by which the apostle Barnabas bore witness to the gospel.

We Have A New Parish Investment Policy

On June 8, our **Advisory Board** approved a new Investment Policy which our **Financial Advisor, Don Skochinski**, will follow when making investment decisions for our endowment and memorial funds. The policy focuses on **ESG ~ Environmental, Social, And Governance Standards**. I would be happy to email you a copy of the Policy. **Please let me know if you would like to read it.**

When Are We Re-Opening?

I am waiting for direction from **Archbishop Anne** as to our re-opening plan. In the meantime, we remain faithful and committed. I am grateful for your sincerity in worship through our live-streams, for your desire to reach out to worshipping with other churches throughout the province, Canada, and the world. May God bless us as we yearn to be back together and share the eucharist.

A 'Grace Note Of Congratulations' To:

- **The Rev. Gordon Holroyd** who was elected as our **Regional Dean** for the **Anglican Deanery of Thunder Bay-North Shore**. This is a 2 year appointment. Fr. Gordon will be working with our 2 Lay Stewards to keep an eye on all the properties/churches/rectories in our area.

- Laurie Sandham who was elected as Lay Steward. Laurie will be working with Fr. Gordon and with the other Lay Steward Dale Sparkes. Her appointment is for 4 years.

Both Laurie and Fr. Gordon are now voting members of the *Executive Committee for the Diocese of Algoma*. They are faithful disciples of Jesus and they both remind me of the enthusiasm of Barnabas! May God bless their new leadership roles.



Good News! We're On TV!

Now you can now watch our weekly service on local TV. On Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, you will be able to watch our **Worship Service** from the previous Sunday on

Channel 10, "Shaw Spotlight." This Sunday's Service will be broadcast **Tuesday June 15 at 7 pm.**

This free service from **Shaw Spotlight** is a blessing for us. We are still trying to arrange forward to being on TBayTel's community channel too, so everyone will have access to our services.



**EVERY FRIDAY ~ 9:00am Morning Prayer
'ZOOM' / PHONE-IN Worship Service**

↓ **SAVE THIS LINK** ↓

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208698866>

Thank the Lord for bringing you safely to the close of another week of change and challenge. **Praise the Lord** for the blessing of refreshment the weekend brings. **Ask the Lord to strengthen you** for the week ahead. Worship with us from the

comfort of home by **ZOOM** or **PHONE**. Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled **ZOOM**:

SAME LINK ALWAYS! → <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208698866> ←

 **Topic:** Morning Prayer with the Parish

 **Time:** Every Friday Morning at 9 am

 **Meeting ID:** 822 0869 8866

OR Dial any one of these numbers ~ Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866

 **1-[204]-272-7920**

 **1-[438]-809-7799**

 **1-[587]-328-1099**



watch live or ANYTIME

 **YouTube**
St. Paul's Media

Our 2 Sunday Service LIVESTREAMS ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We live-stream both our **10:00 am Morning Prayer Service** and **11:30 am Children's Service** every Sunday. Worship with us on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media** or watch the Sunday service on **Shaw TV Channel 10, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.**

Office STILL Closed, But WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! ☺

Our Church Office is still closed to the public, but we are still **available** to address your questions, requests, or concerns. **We are here every day, often on the phone or attending multiple 'ZOOM' meetings**, so please do **leave a message if we can't answer your call!** We continually check messages and emails as we work behind the scenes to bring you the livestreams and keep you updated. You are most welcome to email myself (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) or call us at 622-4945 (office messages) or 624-7161 (Rector's cell).





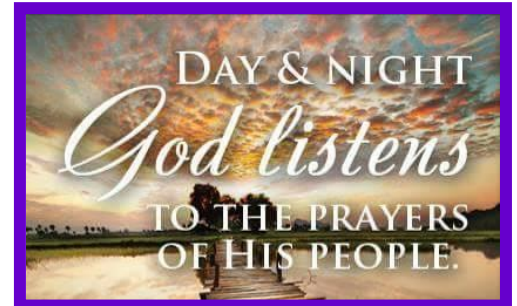
Healing Prayer AVAILABLE VIA OUR 'PARISH PRAYER CHAIN'

The power of prayer to heal and to comfort is truly a blessing! We encourage you to request a **Healing Prayer** through our **CONFIDENTIAL Prayer Chain ministry**. The dedicated parishioners who undertake this special ministry offer up the names they receive in prayer continually throughout the day. **Call/Text Sandra Rejall at 629-3431** to leave a name; give as little or as much info as you wish. *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them."* (James 5: 14)

Who Would You Like Us To Pray For?

I value your prayer requests and love including them in our live-stream service. Until in-person worship resumes, **please email me directly (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) or text me (807-624-7161) by Friday evening** with your prayer petitions and gratitude prayers. I will include all I receive by 11:00pm. Thank you!

Archdeacon Deborah+



2. My Sermon from Sunday June 6, 2021, '2nd Sunday After Pentecost' ~ "The Unforgivable"

*O Lord, uphold me that I may uplift you, and may the words of my mouth
and the meditation of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.*

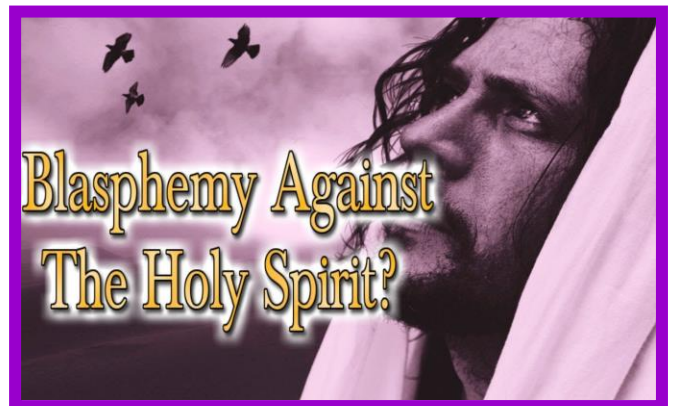
A man phoned me last week. I did not know him. He wanted to speak with me about the unforgivable sin. He sounded very upset. **"The unforgivable sin."** That sounds frightening, doesn't it? We believe in a God of grace and mercy who forgives our transgressions when we come to God in a spirit of repentance and truth.

Is this true? That there is truly a sin that is 'unforgivable'? The Bible mentions this three times in the New Testament. In Matthew 12:32, in Luke 12:10 and in today's gospel reading from Mark 3:29.

"Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven." (Matthew 12:32)

"Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven." (Luke 12:10)

"Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal "sin." (Mark 3:29)



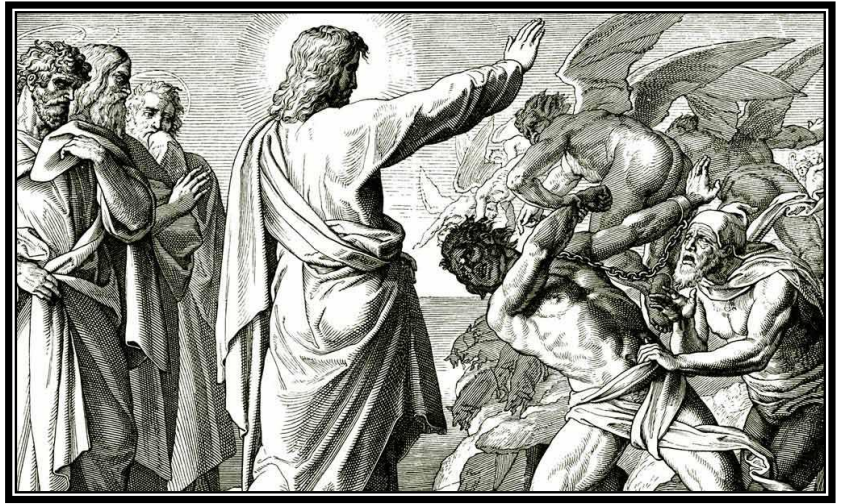
The man who spoke with me on the telephone knows his scripture. These verses sound very black and white, very cut and dried. We have to be very careful with our interpretation of scripture, especially when we pull out challenging verses and have them stand on their own.

We need to enter into the story in order to understand what Jesus is saying and why he said those words. **We need to know the context.** So what is going on?

Jesus has returned to his home base in Capernaum. He has been on a preaching tour around the Galilee. His fame has been growing as he heals many. He is already drawing the attention of the religious authorities, not just in Galilee but as far south as Jerusalem, and not in a positive way. The crowd knows he is back and they overwhelm him with requests. Jesus and the disciples do not even have any time to eat a meal. Jesus' family is told that *"he has gone out of his mind."* (Mark 3:21) and his family try to take him away from the crowd. They are worried about him. Then it gets worse. The religious leaders from Jerusalem start spreading a vicious rumour that Jesus has been taken over by Beelzebul, who was

considered to be the lord of the demons. Imagine saying that about Jesus, God in the flesh. Imagine how Jesus felt when he heard these wicked words.

Jesus calls the religious leaders to him and speaks to them in parables. He begins by asking them how he could be Satan if he is healing people against their demons? *“How can Satan cast out Satan?”* Jesus doesn’t use the name Beelzebul. He goes right to the source, to naming the enemy. So of course the accusation of the religious leaders is completely unfounded. If Jesus were Satan then why would he be healing people?



Jesus is going after Satan not by dividing him from inside but from the outside. Satan is the strong man in Jesus’ parable whom Jesus will bind up.

Jesus then gives this teaching: *“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”* (Mark 3:24)

On June 16, 1858, just 3 years before the American Civil War began, Abraham Lincoln, who would become president in 1861, gave a speech on disunity in the United States. Lincoln was against slavery. He begins his famous speech by quoting from Mark’s gospel:

“A house divided against itself, cannot stand.

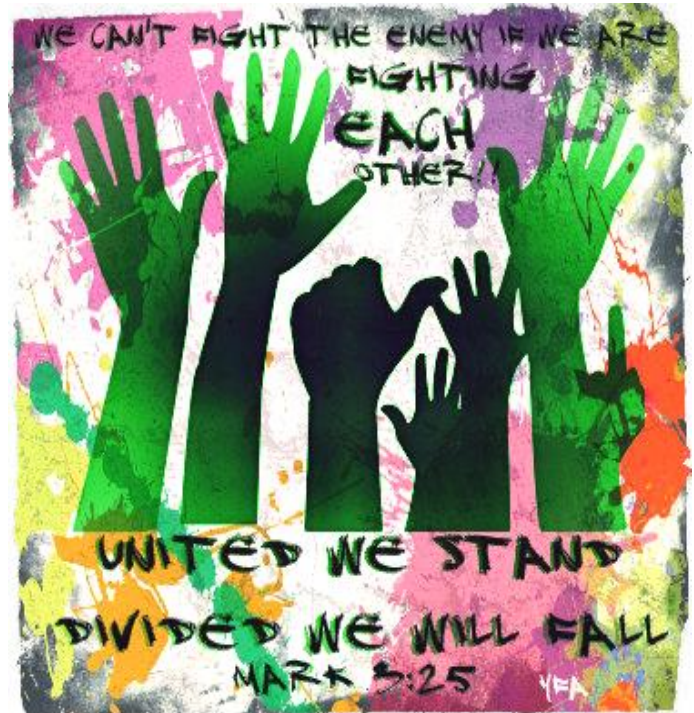
I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.

*I do not expect the Union to be dissolved —
I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect
it will cease to be divided.*

It will become all one thing or all the other.

*Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further
spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall
rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate
extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it
shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as
new — North as well as South.”*

As Christians and as Canadians, I believe that Jesus’ words hold true today. We must stand together, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, in this country of ours and walk together, all of us, in truth and in reconciliation.



Jesus goes on to condemn the religious leaders who believe that he is filled not with God, not with the Holy Spirit, but with Satan. He tells them that they will never be forgiven for believing that the Saviour of the World is in reality Satan. He tells them that they are *“guilty of an eternal sin.”*

Mark’s gospel is clear that Jesus is only condemning the scribes and repeats that Jesus gave this response only because the scribes said that *“he has an unclean spirit.”* This response is only for a small select group of people who are thinking that Christ is the enemy.

Then Jesus continues to teach and he gives a beautiful inclusive teaching that everyone who does the will of God is Jesus’ brother and sister and mother.

We are part of the family of God. In the words of the apostle Paul, we live by faith and we do not lose

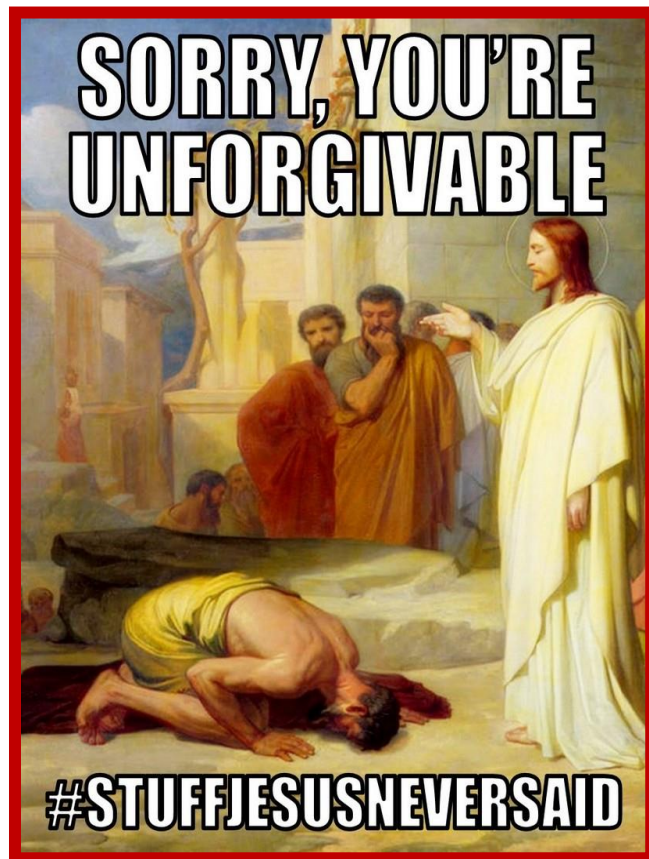
heart. We know that we receive our salvation from our faith in the redemption of the world by Jesus. We know that we are “**ambassadors for Christ.**” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit means that we are saying that Jesus is demon-possessed and not filled by the Spirit of God. That Jesus is evil. That does sound seriously irreverent, doesn't it? That sounds seriously unforgivable, doesn't it? That sounds like a very hard heart, doesn't it? I know some people who are not disciples of Jesus but I have never ever heard anyone say that Jesus was evil, that Jesus was Satan.

When we turn to our Saviour in faith and in trust and in humility and in repentance, all of our transgressions are forgiven. We become part of God's family. We become a child of God and citizens of heaven.

Our God is forgiving and good. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving. **God forgives our sins and remembers them no more.**

This tough teaching about the 'unforgivable sin' reminds us to draw together in faith and in unity to God and to each other. May we stay united together, in our



households, in our family of faith, in our community, and in this nation of Canada, all while acknowledging the light of Christ and the divinity of Christ and the power of Christ. **Amen.**

Archdeacon Deborah+

4. **The Last Laugh** ~ “A cheerful heart is good medicine.” [Proverbs 7:22]

“Unclear On The Concept . . .”

Archdeacon Deborah+

“The Happy Rector & Archdeacon”

