



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson
Bishop of Montreal
bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca

Lent 2021

February 18, 2021

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Dear Colleagues,

Grace and Peace to you all. I am grateful for this passage from Romans 8: 38-39 which reminds us that the love of God is with us, even when we face great challenges and even death. Many of us have felt that it has been a whole year of Lent already. We have encountered our mortality more closely than we might have wished. May this Lent be a time in which you find yourselves journeying intimately with our Saviour who chose to live as one of us and who triumphed over death.

Although we have seen some progress in the decreasing numbers of new cases, the presence of new Covid-19 variants is worrying. As long as we continue to be in the Red Zone throughout our diocese, I am asking you to **continue to hold services virtually**. If there is a compelling reason why you need to hold in-person services for 10 people, please be in touch with [Archdeacon Robert Camara](#), the safe church officer. I want to congratulate all who have continued to hone their skills of leading worship online and especially those of you who have recently joined the ranks of Zoom and Facebook and Go To Meeting.

Please remember that your **continuing education funds** exist for the benefit of your employer and that they may be spent on anything that will enrich and develop the ministry that you do. If you do not have a computer that is equipped for Zoom, including a camera and microphone, now would be a good time to acquire one. A number of people and parishes in the Diocese have signed up for a Tuesday night course at Montreal Dio on “Anglican Origins: Uncovering the Roots of our Tradition” beginning Feb. 23rd, with a reduced rate for members of the Corporation.

I am very pleased that our Primate, The Most Rev Linda Nicholls will lead **The Annual Clergy Lenten Retreat**, beginning **March 14th at 7pm and ending March 16 at noon** after Renewal of Ordination Vows, and the Blessing of Oils. Even though it will be an online event, clergy are asked to set aside this time for rest and refreshment. The theme will be “**Radical Resilience and Hope**”. A registration form will be sent out next week.

I have been **visiting clericus** gatherings again, just to see the clergy and catch up on your news. I've been delighted to hear of your creative efforts and of the good response that you have been having. As always, I welcome a chance to speak personally with you and to discuss your

ministry. Also, if you would like me to attend a service and preach for you, please write to my office at bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca and Maria will find a date that works for us both.

The Fulford Residence is returning to normal after many residents and staff were stricken with Covid-19. One long-time resident, **Mrs. Joyce Fife**, died on February 12th. She was the widow of the late Rev. Jack Fife, who served in the Parish of Huntingdon before retiring to Havelock. Joyce will be buried on Friday in a private ceremony conducted by Archdeacon (retired) Brian Evans. rodriguemontpetitfils.com/index.php/fr/avis-de-deces/783-joyce-fife-nee-pettem

The Venerable Gordon Guy died February 2nd. Please keep his wife Myrna and their children and their families in your prayers. montrealgazette.remembering.ca/obituary/gordon-e-s-guy-1081613700

Rest eternal grant unto Joyce and Gordon, O Lord, and let Light Perpetual shine on them. May they rest in peace and rise in Glory. Amen.

Your prayers are also asked for Archdeacon Tim Smart's mother Shirley, for the Rev. Jane Bell and for her sons Matthew and Andrew.

Congratulations to the Reverend Jennifer Bourque who began new work as a spiritual care professional on February 1st at the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. She will be based at Hôpital Lasalle.

For several months I have been leading **Night Prayer/Compline** on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 8pm. I know that several parishes also have regular services and this is not meant to compete with what you are doing. We use the Church of England service which is available in a very handy app on a smartphone and also can be downloaded at www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-contemporary-sunday-21-february-2021

Begun as the initiative of the Rev. Canon Neil Mancor and Archdeacon Michelle Eason, this service was relabeled as Night Prayer with Bishop Mary and friends. We lead the service on Zoom and then share it on my Facebook page. An interesting community has formed. If you are free and would like to join us, we would be glad to have you. Please be in touch with Neil or me.

This time of pandemic is an opportunity to encourage and enrich the discipleship of your parishioners, and to be speaking with them about what God has been teaching us about our mission. I know of many people who have found their faith growing over the last year. Our use of social media has provided an opportunity for people to participate in new and meaningful ways.

The *Anglican Montréal Anglican* is now published quarterly. People who would like to receive a print copy can contact [Ms. Nicki Hronjak](mailto:Ms.Nicki.Hronjak) at the Program Office to [subscribe](#). New members of your (online) congregations may be interested in the print or digital copy.

A new online community has formed, especially to welcome francophone Anglicans new to the Province of Québec and to help integrate newcomers who, if they stay in Québec, will become

French-speaking. It meets for worship on Zoom on Sunday afternoons. Learn more at facebook.com/CMAQuebec

The diocese is also developing a French web site which should go live soon. More about this will be presented in the next *Anglican Montréal Anglican*. If you would like to volunteer to help, please be in touch with Nicki. We are especially glad for assistance improving the quality of our French text.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Bishop's Action Appeal. As of the end of December, approximately \$30,000 had been received and assigned. A cheque for \$9,609.40 was sent to the Compass Rose Society for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Rehabilitation Centre and it was received with grateful thanks. Receipts for all donations the Diocese has received up until Dec. 31, 2020 are being sent out this week. The Bishop's Action Appeal continues to receive donations.

A reminder that a [Black History Celebration](#) hosted by [Christ Church Cathedral Montreal](#) and the Anglican Diocese of Montreal will be held to celebrate Black History Month on Saturday February 27th at 4pm, using a webinar format.

Every blessing,



PS: I am enclosing a copy of a letter from the Ven Alan Perry, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada. It contains an update of actions taken since General Synod of 2019.