

THE MONTRÉAL LAY READER

LE PRÉDICATEUR MONTRÉLAIS

The newsletter for lay readers of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal  
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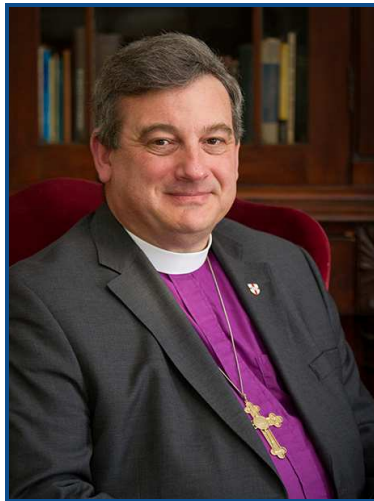


## SPRING RETREAT ON ZOOM

Saturday, April 24, 2021

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Leader and Speaker - The Right Reverend Michael Oulton,  
Bishop of Ontario



Bishop Oulton is a former lawyer who practiced in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In his past he also served as a member of Municipal Council in his hometown of Port Elgin, New Brunswick and was the youngest citizen at age 18 to hold elected public office.

Bishop Oulton served as a priest in Nova Scotia and PEI before he transferred in Ontario in 1997 and served in Collins Bay and in Belleville. He was installed as Bishop of Ontario in 2011.

Bishop Oulton has a passion for the churches' engagement with the world in mission, quoting theologian Thomas Buechner who wrote that our vocation as disciples of Jesus Christ is found where "your greatest passion meets the world's greatest need".

### Topic: Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy

Bishop Michael describes the life and ministry of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as very appropriate for our day and age. The bishop writes, "We live in a world today where the political and cultural dialogue is becoming increasingly heated, divisive and toxic. The church must be prepared to engage in public in a manner that is both 'salt for the earth' and 'leaven to inspire'." The firm foundation of the Great Commandment of Christ is to love God, and to love self in equal measure.

Bishop Oulton's talks will be based on the book by Eric Metaxis entitled, "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy". Each session will be accompanied by a video. The four sessions are entitled:

1. What is the Church?
2. Living in Christian Community
3. Religionless Christianity
4. Come and Die

## LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

*Kathleen O'Meara's poem, 'And People Stayed Home,' written in 1869 following the Irish famine, but very suitable for this time of Pandemic.*

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, just as they were healed.



### As I Look to the Future

This past year has been a difficult time for some of us; with major life disruptions, loss of loved ones, loss of jobs, loss of communion with our church families and even loss of hugs by family and friends.

Fortunately, I am generally an optimist, and I think that attitude has served me well during the past year. As we look forward to Easter, I am more optimistic than ever about our survival throughout this pandemic. Despite all the restrictions we have had to endure, I am beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel as we begin to get the Vaccines against Covid 19. Some tunnels just happen to be longer than others so don't throw in the towel yet. Some churches are beginning to have small "in-person" gatherings.

Last summer, I was fortunate to be able to play golf as it was the one sport in which one could play while socially distancing from others. I am looking forward to golfing again soon, as I view it as the adult version of an Easter Egg Hunt. It is said that Easter is the only time of year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

The scriptures tell us that Easter is meant to be a symbol of Hope, Renewal, and New Life. So, let us focus on the future as we celebrate Easter.

**Yvonne Wakeland**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

ANNE CLAUDE GEOFFRION

### Poppa's Song from Pippa's Passes

The year's at the spring,  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in his Heaven-  
All's right with the world!

- Robert Browning

Yes, to a new life, a beautiful risk



This is one of my favourite poems and one of the few I know by heart. I love early Spring mornings where I can see the birds "on the wing" and feel my heart soar with Love and Trust in God for the beautiful world he has given us.

By the time you read this, we will have crossed over into Spring, and Easter will be just around the corner. Spring is a time of hope, growth and renewal, of crocuses and daffodils, of newborn animals and birds. For Christians all over the world it is a joyful celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

For many of us, 2020 may have felt like a whole year of Lent since we had to sacrifice so many of our normal activities, not only for our own safety, and for the security of those we love, but also for the good of the community and country at large. Our lives have been turned upside down and we have a new vocabulary incorporating words like social distancing, self-isolation, masks and quarantine.

This is the second Easter we are celebrating during a pandemic that shipwrecked lives, but with a better understanding of the virus and the arrival of several vaccines, we seem to be on the road to recovery, slowly and cautiously.

There are several parallels between Spring and Easter. Both imply physical and spiritual renewal and reawakening. Both signify a promise for the future, a promise of crops in Fall, and the Eternal Life promised by Jesus and confirmed by His death and Resurrection.

Easter also delivers a message of hope. We have hope for a new life, a hope that our lives matter. It means we have hope in the midst of our doubts and uncertainties, despite the risks of life, and when nothing makes sense and the odds are against us.

Easter also represents a call. The resurrection is a calling on our lives. And this call awaits our response. We are being called to believe in life because life is precious beyond belief.

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We are being called to appreciate the opportunities of every moment given us and to neither waste nor take for granted a single one. We are being called to live more fully alive and take the risk that there is always more life awaiting us even when it seems impossible.

The resurrection is wooing and calling us into life, more life, a new life. It is God's yes to us and it asks us to answer, to act, to respond and take the "beautiful risk" of saying, "YES".

These are my hopes and prayers for you. Yes to life. Yes to more life. Yes to a new life.

God's in his Heaven

All's right with the world

**Anne Claude**



**LAY READERS'  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021**

**10:00 AM UNTIL 12:00 PM**

**ZOOM**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

LORNE EASTON

### Passing Time During the Pandemic – It's A Puzzle

During this pandemic and its associated restrictions, when I wasn't working on sermons, or preparing for online services or other church related work, of which there is much actually, I have found myself turning to the television to "relax."

The trouble is, I am somewhat of a binge watcher. So once I start, I find it hard to stop, especially if I'm watching a series of some kind. I kid myself by thinking that I can watch an episode or two, which are usually about 45 minutes or so in length, and then turn off the set at a decent hour. Great in theory, terrible in practise.

Once I start, I don't want to stop. I find myself itching to know what will happen in the next episode. Before I know it, I've watched hours of television and the birds are beginning to sing in the predawn light. These television series are worse than chips!

So, to break the habit of relaxing in front of the "idiot box" and mindlessly squandering away precious hours of sleep, I have begun working on jigsaw puzzles. Not that I'm a big fan of jigsaw puzzles mind you, but I've come to find that working on puzzles has been a blessing.

Now I have taken to this new "relaxing" activity slowly. The first puzzle I did was a 200-piece puzzle that my wife and I bought for our grandchildren. It's rated for 8+, my kind of challenge! It only took me a couple of hours to put it together.



But here's where the blessing comes in. Spreading a puzzle out on the table makes this activity a potentially public event, unlike the solitary activity of watching TV. Other family members often want to help or at least offer their 2 cents, and so by default we find ourselves communicating together more, and enjoying it. It so much more pleasant than being yelled at to turn down the TV or being reprimanded for watching inappropriately rated programs.

There is also a certain satisfaction in putting the puzzle together. Your mind is working, you pay close attention to the picture on the puzzle box to find clues that might help in putting the pieces together. Then there are the small joys of satisfaction you experience when you succeed in fitting those seemingly odd pieces together. It's not at all like the feeling of vague unrest and dissatisfaction I can get when I realize that I'm only on episode 8 of 16 and I can now hear the birds chirping through my open window.

Finally, once the puzzle is completed, it is finished. I and whoever else in the house can admire the finished product with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, and then put it away. Not so with watching television. Once I finally turn off the TV, I find myself shaking my head at how much time I've just wasted and how groggy I'll probably feel the next day.

This pandemic has so many of us spending our time very differently than we would have ever imagined. So we might do well to ask ourselves, even being under restriction are we spending our time wisely? Not a puzzling question after all.

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"So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!" (Eph. 5:15-16, The Message)

PS: By the way, my daughter and I are now working on 2,000-piece puzzles.

Yours in Christ,

**Lorne+**



## **MY REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE CANADA, THE CHURCHES AND BILL C-15**

*Thursday, February 18, 2021 from 7-8:30 P.M. via Zoom*

The Panelists were: Archbishop Mark MacDonald, the National Indigenous Archbishop, Professor Sheryl Lightfoot, Chief Wilton Littlechild, and Ellen Gabriel.

Chief Wilton Littlechild told his story, being removed forcibly from his family, to be sent to a residential school. He was given a haircut to remove any vestige of Indigenous association, had his clothing changed. He spoke only Cree, and did not know one word of English or French. He suffered physical and mental abuse that one should not mete out on any human being. Worse, this abuse was meted out by religious brothers, who when caught, would merely be shuffled to another school.

The backdrop to this conference was the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, a Declaration that Canada opposes. An Indigenous elder, Ellen Gabriel, argued that indigenous people need to be heard, that for too long the indigenous people have been watching from the outside, looking at what is being done to their indigenous land by settlers who came here long after the First Nations were here.

While we might think that we have done all we can to seek reconciliation with First Nations, we must realize that it took 13,000 lawsuits to push the federal Government to assemble the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The task is incomplete in the words of the panelists at the conference: Truth, has been addressed, Apologies have been made, however, Opportunity to Forgive has yet to be realized. Healing, and a sense of justice, are items that form the heart of indigenous spirituality.

Ellen Gabriel expressed a moral urgency for the Church to stand up more for the First Nations who still have no safe running water across many reservations in Canada. She said that she was fed up with the lack of truth in the words of the Canadian leaders. The First Nations were the "founding fathers" of this nation called Canada. Ms. Gabriel alleged that it was time for women to sit in council with men in decision making that affects the First Nations.

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Bill C-15 was introduced by Parliament in 2017 and amended by Senate. It was stalled because of the election. The United Nations Universal Declaration was accepted by the General Assembly in 1948, and it is this Declaration that Canada has finally underwritten. The panellists view Bill C-15 as a compromise with no new rights for Indigenous People articulated. They see this Bill as a possible steppingstone for First Nations to negotiate individual/collective rights and push Canada to enact legislation that will meet the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The work of reconciliation is not over, and the Church must answer the call for justice for our First Nations.

## SAYING FAREWELL TO THE FULFORD RESIDENCE

Many of you have heard the news of the closing of the Fulford Residence. This has been a difficult time for all who have worked at Fulford. I have been on the Board of Directors for many years, and have always enjoyed providing activities and special occasions for the ladies living there. It has always been a happy place with loving care for the residents.

Fulford is an historic home, originally a country residence for an early Montreal Family. It was called Erin Cottage and was surrounded by large gardens! Imagine...on Guy Street between Ste. Catherine and Dorchester, before that part of the city was fully developed with commercial establishments.

It is a Victorian building with high ceilings and stained glass, an old wooden staircase, furniture and paintings contributed by wealthy Westmount families. It was home to many well-known Montreal ladies including the first woman to graduate in law from McGill university, a head nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital in the 1930s, the mother of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, women with fascinating stories of lives well-lived and well-travelled. Delightful individuals even as memories faded and bodies succumbed to age.

The Board of Directors has recognized for some time that we were facing a rising deficit and fund-raising has been a challenge. Our Quebec government urges seniors to remain in their homes, so women were arriving in their late 90s when they needed care.

This old house could not offer a bathroom with every bedroom, something today's families expect. This was never a hardship for ladies like my mother-in-law who had a bathroom right outside her door. She felt as though she was back at boarding school.

The broad verandas on two levels were inviting for ladies to sit with visitors, to watch the birds alight in the huge trees surrounding the house. Colourful flower gardens enhanced the view and provided bouquets for the dining room tables. Breakfasts on the balcony were a favourite activity in the summer months.

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With the sudden arrival of Covid19, a third of the residents were taken, and many staff members were also sick, so this was a costly time on every level. Funds remaining would be needed to care for ladies and staff members as we ceased operations as a residence. Our staff and management team were exhausted, and needed to step away to rest.



We are sorry that some were taken by surprise by our necessary decision to cease operations as a residence. At the same time we have been heartened by the love expressed and appreciation of care received for so many years.

We allocated six months in order to close with utmost care, with full support for the reallocation of each lady, and assistance to staff who are seeking new positions. Every single individual is important to us and will continue to be given all support as needed.

At this time we need to move forward with this plan, and will be grateful for support in doing this. We have asked our families to understand that this decision was made with much sadness and sense of loss, and after careful consideration of the short and long-term realities facing Fulford Residence. We directors have been proud and privileged to serve in this historic home for so many years.

Planning wisely with the funds remaining to us in the coming months, we are taking steps to ensure that our ladies and staff members can be well-served during this transition. . We will be working with integrity, openness and diligence to provide safety and comfort for our Fulford family.. Working together will enable us to celebrate the success of Fulford Residence, and the courage to accept the changes that must be faced by all who have loved this place. Finally, my hope is that the building will find a new purpose, one that will serve people with love, and one that will continue to invite the public to visit this historic house, to absorb the gentle ambience of times past.

***Sue Winn***





## FROM THE WINGÈD OX

With permission from The Rev. Doctor Hilary Bogart-Winkler  
Director of Pastoral Studies  
Montreal Diocesan Theological College

When I was 10, my family went to visit my maternal grandparents one weekend. This in itself was relatively unremarkable—they lived 100 miles away and we'd visit every couple of months or so. We'd spent the weekend at "the Barn," this magical house in rural Kentucky they'd had built the year I was born. It looked like a barn, had no actual rooms in it (aside from the bathrooms and a laundry room), and a wonderful two-sided fireplace that rose up the middle of the house. There were only gravel roads in the neighborhood, on which we'd go for walks with my grandmother to collect fossils and pick blackberries on hot and humid Kentucky summer days. This was an October weekend, with all of the glory that fall brings. We got back home after a wonderful weekend visiting them to find a message on the answering machine. My beloved grandmother had died from a heart attack in the 1.5 hours it took us to drive from their house to ours.

In that moment of grief and devastation I remember thinking that we needed to call our priest, Fr. Sonny, and that we needed to have Communion. I honestly don't remember making any logical connection in that thought process. However, we were very active members of our local Episcopal Church and in a moment when nothing made sense any more, my 10 year old self knew that ritual would provide us with grounding. I know the priest came, but have no recollection of our family Eucharist itself. Just that moment of terrible, aching grief and need for that gathering around the table.

I've thought of that moment many times over the past year. Like so many others, the last 12+ months have been ones of fear, frustration, anger, exhaustion, hope, creativity, isolation, longing, and a host of other emotions. And in the midst of all of this, what I long for is the ability to gather with you all and break bread together—in the Eucharist and afterwards—to find some grounding with one another when everything around us seems to be falling apart. This has not been possible though. I've not been to any sort of in-person worship service since March 8, 2020, and I have no idea when I'll be able to go to one again. I know I am not alone in this. Online worship services have shown the incredible creativity, resilience, and care of our church leaders, lay and ordained, and I give thanks to God for the many ways I have been able to worship in these strange times. Still, the longing remains.

Yet in the midst of that longing, I have found myself being grounded in the Word in ways I never had been before. It's not always been willingly or happily—often it's a begrudging acceptance that yet again I will say Morning Prayer instead of receiving the Eucharist. Despite all of this, though, God has shown up in the Word and given me a new-found appreciation for the ways the Anglican liturgy draws on that Word and immerses us in it day after day, week after week, month after month. I've come to love more deeply the worship that formed the core of the Anglican tradition for centuries. And our weekly Gospel Based Discipleship tutorial groups have fed my soul week in and week out, in this time when there's no community breakfast to feed my body. This year has brought all new meaning to Jesus' response when he was tempted with bread, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." In the absence of that Eucharistic bread, the Word has been even more needed and nourishing.

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I deeply hope that this Eucharistic fast will soon be over, though I've learned to constantly re-define "soon!" I long for the day when I'm once again chasing one of my kids up the aisle trying to get them to play just a little bit more quietly in the midst of the sermon. I can't wait to wake up extra early on a Friday to make sure I get to the college in time for Eucharist and breakfast. And I hope that, even when we are able to gather again, that I don't forget the nourishment provided for us in the Scriptures, and the ways God shows up even (especially) when the world is turned upside down.

Faithfully yours,

**Hilary**



## **THE LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION**

### **OFFERS BURSARIES**

Thanks to the donation received through the Bishop's Action Appeal 2019, the value of the bursaries offered by the Lay Reader's Association has been increased.

Every active Lay Reader who participates in courses of religious studies is entitled to a bursary of up to \$200.00 per year to assist with the cost of their studies.

These studies may be with EFM (Education for Ministry) or with other recognised institutions. Please send a request to our treasurer, Ann Cumyn at [acumyn@sympatico.ca](mailto:acumyn@sympatico.ca)



## 2021 LAY READER STUDY DAY AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

ZOOM

**Speaker: Archdeacon Tim Smart**



**Topic: Good grief; loss and hope in a time of uncertainty**

The Venerable Tim Smart is the Archdeacon of Bedford and the Richelieu Regional Ministry of Brome/Sutton. But we first knew Tim as the Pastor of Lay Readers! He is an old friend who has known us and supported our ministry for many years.

Tim has worked in prison ministry, and in ecumenical endeavors. He will be our speaker on Study Day on November 13th, 2021. Tim was pleased to be invited to spend time with us again, this time on ZOOM. As we travel through our second year of this Covid19 pandemic, Tim will address the topic of grief and loss. He will encourage us to move towards healing and wholeness, learning to be thankful for lessons learned, and for our God who holds us firmly in His hands.

**Commissioning Service - Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson**



**PEC - Preaching Excellence Connection**  
**Tuesday May 26, 2020 to Thursday May 28, 2020**  
**A program of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation**



Probably the best conference this year and I almost missed it. We received confirmation that we could participate in the last days before the registration closed. Finally there were 4 lay readers from Montreal and 1 theology student from Dio participating. I actually registered a day late.



This was a new conference for a new era from the foundation which normally does a similar conference somewhere in the USA on a campus each year. But I think we can expect to see this again next year.

Because the program was for everyone from coast to coast the days started early and finished late. Zoom organisation was superb.

Everyday was a mix of lectures, discussion groups and preaching groups.

Everyone was assigned a preaching group with 3 or 4 participants and a coordinator. This was the core of the program where each person was to read a recent sermon and then the coordinator and the other group members provided feedback. Feedback was given based on a structure provided by the coordinator.

**How would you evaluate a sermon?**

My group was asked to answer 4 questions:

- 1: How would you sum up the sermon in a single sentence?
- 2: What illustrations, phrases or metaphors stick with you from this sermon?
- 3: How did the sermon connect the biblical message with our everyday lives? What's the take away?
- 4: Please comment on the presentation - gestures, pauses, inflections, tempo. How did the presentation enhance the message? What are the growth areas? Did the preacher embody the message?

In between sessions with our preaching groups we had presentations and common rooms (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and special interest group rooms. Common rooms were a great way to meet people all across the country, both leaders and participants.



On the first evening there was a pre-recorded town hall discussion with Bishop Currie followed by evening prayer with him preaching. He never disappoints.



There were other great speakers but the outstanding speaker for me was Dr. Amy Jill Levine who spoke on: 'Understanding Jesus means understanding Judaism'. This was a reflection of her work editing the 'Jewish Annotated New Testament'. We all received a copy of this from the conference in advance so we could refer to it during her presentation. It has become a place I check every time I prepare a sermon.

Would I go back? Yes, but not every year. This is a program to refine your progress. We may even need a session like it in our program for Lay Readers. But it was fun to be with a lot of people studying for the priesthood and learning to preach. It was fun to have to critically analyse someone else's sermon and really have to listen. Which is not easy if your mind is like mine, always on the move.

Mark Weatherley

(Other Lay Reader participants were Simon Hartropp, Yvonne Bayne, Marilyn Wray. We were joined at the conference by a dio student Fred Chisolm, who at the time was studying from home in New Hampshire)



## EVENTS AND TRAINING

March 27, 2021	Workshop - Boundaries 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Facilitator - Rev. Dr. Neil Mancor Zoom
April 24, 2021	Spring Retreat 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Leader and Speaker - The Right Reverend Michael Oulton, Bishop of Ontario Zoom
May 22, 2021	Annual General Meeting 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Zoom
June 12, 2021	Workshop on Preaching 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Facilitator - Rev. Paul Jennings, Diocese of NS & PEI Zoom
September 25, 2021	Workshop - Levels of Spirituality 9:30 am - 12:30 pm Facilitator - Archdeacon Michelle Eason Zoom
October 23, 2021	TBA
November 13, 2021	Study Day & Commissioning Service Speaker – Archdeacon Tim Smart Topic – Good grief; loss and hope in a time of uncertainty Commissioning Service - Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson Location: TBD

**Please Note:** Due to the present circumstances regarding public meetings and the COVID-19 virus, all training sessions will be held online via ZOOM.

Should you not have online access you may also join by telephone by calling the number that will be sent to you for each specific seminar.

The usual cost per workshop is \$10 (free for 1<sup>st</sup> year Lay Readers). However at this time, there is no fee for attending Zoom workshops.

As soon as this situation changes, we will update this information and you will be contacted.