

The Rev'd Canon W. Lynn Dillabough may be reached at 819-239-6902 or lynn@dillabough@gmail.com. If you would like a pastoral visit, please contact Jane Bishop at 819-887-6802 or Canon Lynn.

News and events:

Our best wishes for happy birthdays to Caitlin Goddard today, Leland Bennett tomorrow, and Wanda Parsons on Tuesday.

Wednesday, May 4th, Messy Church in St. Paul's Church hall, Bury from 5:15-6:45pm. Please let us know if you can attend for planning of the supper meal at 819-239-6902 or lynn@dillabough@gmail.com. The story will be Jesus visiting with the woman at the well.

Next Sunday, May 8, Liturgy of The Word in St. Paul's Bury at 9:30am and in St. Peter's Cookshire at 11:00am with layreaders.

Sunday May 15th, Pentecost, we will be beginning our summer schedule of one-point parish services at 10:30am. It will be Holy Eucharist with Canon Lynn and followed by a pot-luck lunch.

Confirmation Class - St John's Church, Waterville - Confirmation classes to begin at St. John's, Waterville. All who are interested please contact the Rev. Ruth Charleau ASAP so that she can plan the starting date and get material for everyone. 12 years old and up.

Episcopal Ordination of the Ven. Bruce Myers, Coadjutor Bishop-Elect: The Deanery is organizing a bus to transport people to the Cathedral for the episcopal ordination on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 5th at 6:30 pm. A bus leaving from St George's Church, Lennoxville at 1:00 pm will allow time for supper before the service. There is a reception so the return trip will be late in the evening. Reservations by April 24th required. Please contact Kay Hartwell for information and to reserve your seat. [\(819 349-1971\)](tel:8193491971)

Saturday, May 7, 4:00 – 6:00 pm Church of the Advent, Sherbrooke – Annual spring tea with salads, ham, fresh rolls, cakes, squares, tea and coffee. There will also be a sales table of homemade goodies, so please bring a bag. Admission charged.

Saturday, May 14, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm - Murray Memorial Hall, Georgeville - The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, the National Indigenous Bishop will be speaking on "The Gospel in Four Directions and New Horizon for Canada." \$10 workshop fee. Lunch and coffee \$10. Registration required at [450 292-3555](tel:4502923555).

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Sentence: *If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you. See John 14.23*

Collect: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

This week please pray for:

- **We pray for God's people** throughout the world; for Dennis, our Bishop, Lynn, our Priest, Fred our Primate, and for all in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church. We pray for Coadjutor Bishop-elect, The Ven. Bruce Myers, who is being ordained this Thursday.

- **In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer**, we pray for Rural Deans: Mrs. Anne Chapman, Canon Stephen Kohner, The Rev. Michel Royer, and Mrs. Ruth Sheeran; for our Companion Dioceses of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and for Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- **In the Provincial Prayer Cycle** we pray for the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, for Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson and the Provincial Council. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya, for The Most Revd Dr Eliud Wabukala, Primate and Archbishop.

- **In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** we pray for Christian faith communities in Eritrea and Ethiopia. We pray for the settling of border disputes by diplomatic means instead of violence, for new sources of food and clean-drinking water that can be developed affordably, for refugees and those who have been displaced from their homes and villages, for those suffering from AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases, who have no access to medical care.

- **We pray for our families**, friends, and communities, and we ask blessings for Caitlin Goddard, Leland Bennett, and Wanda Parsons on their birthdays.

- **We pray that God may reveal the light of His presence** to the weak and the sick, that they may be comforted and strengthened, and we pray especially for Joan Dougherty, The Ven. Robert Bryan, Dufferin Annesley, Sandra Hurd, Maria Garcia, Teressa MacLeod, Wanda Sylvester, Audrey Dougherty, Erwin Watson, and Sheila Bellam.

- **We pray for peace and justice for all. Amen.**

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Saturday, June 4, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm - Lennoxville - The Skills of Healing: Care For Others, Care For Yourself. All are welcome. You do not need to be an official member of the Deanery Pastoral Ministry Team. The morning focuses on care for others and some of the skills of listening and being present, as well as some of the practicalities of visiting hospitals and nursing homes, particularly those with dementia, alzheimer's and other diseases that cause confusion. In the afternoon, following a lunch, which is provided thanks to a grant from St Peter's, Sherbrooke, we will focus on caring for yourself. Caregivers can sometimes deplete themselves and we need to learn the skills of proper self-care. Afternoon topics will include setting boundaries with difficult people, as well as ways to alleviate the depression and anxiety that can often occur for caregivers. Workshops will be led by Canon Lynn Dillabough. Lynn taught for several years at St Paul University in the Counselling and Spirituality program, supervising graduate students who were training to become psychotherapists. She also worked for fifteen years as a professional pastoral counsellor and has been invited to lead pastoral care workshops in many congregations. There is no cost for this event, but donations would be welcomed, to offset the cost of future workshops. Please contact Canon Lynn Dillabough to register

Saturday, May 7, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bishop's University - **The BU/CRC Refugee Student Sponsorship Committee** will be holding their annual large Garage Sale in the W.B. Scott arena (old arena). For further information please contact Heather Thomson at 819-822-9600 ext. 2718 or hthomson@ubishops.ca

A Reading from the Book of Acts...In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 BAS page 764 or **Psalm 93** BAS page 830

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians...¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. *Ephesians 1:15-23*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...⁴⁴Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God. *Luke 24:44-53*

Reflection: Can you imagine what a spectacular sight it was? Exactly as promised, Jesus ascended into heaven. The scriptures were fulfilled. The Redeemer returned to the Father in a final miracle. But there is another often overlooked miracle tucked into this gospel that deserves our attention. Just before the

Ascension, Luke tells us: Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. In these few words Luke describes one of the truly transformative events in human history. Suddenly it all made sense. Jesus had told them over and over that he had not come to overthrow God's covenant but to fulfill it. He was the answer to the prophet's prayers. He was literally the embodiment of God's love.

How many times had he taught this to these unschooled manual labourers? How many times had they struggled to understand? Now they knew the answer. They knew Jesus as they had never known him before. Now they had the wisdom and in a few days they would have the will... when Jesus would send down the Holy Spirit... to multiply their new found knowledge and put it to work... to send them out into the world to carry on his work of redemption... to change the world. Without fully understanding the old covenant, how could Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ever have transcribed the new covenant? How would generations yet unborn come to know that the Word was made flesh? And yet miraculously there it was. Not as obvious as the medical miracles of cleansing lepers or curing the deaf, the blind and the lame, this intellectual and spiritual miracle resounds down the centuries to bless us today. The Bible that grew from this miracle is not a collection of legends. It is an account of God's covenant with his creation, divided into old and new testaments, united in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. That was Christ's parting gift to the disciples and through them to us. It is our link to redemption, our map to salvation, our promise of eternal life.

Chuckles: A much loved minister of God once carried a secret burden of long- past sin deep in his heart. He had committed the sin many years before, during his Bible school training. No one knew what he had done, but they did know he had repented. Even so, he had suffered years of remorse over the incident without any sense of God's forgiveness.

A woman in his church deeply loved God and claimed to have visions in which Jesus Christ spoke to her. The minister, skeptical of her claims, asked her, "The next time you speak to the Lord, would you please ask Him what sin your minister committed while he was in Bible school." The woman kindly agreed.

When she came to the church a few days later the minister asked, "Did He visit you?" She said, "Yes."

"And did you ask Him what sin I committed?"

"Yes, I asked Him," she replied

"Well, what did He say?"

"He said, 'I don't remember.'"

A man was taking it easy, lying on the grass and looking up at the clouds. He was identifying shapes when he decided to talk to God. "God", he said, "how long is a million years?"

God answered, "In my frame of reference, it's about a minute."

The man asked, "God, how much is a million dollars?"

God answered, "To Me, it's a penny."

The man then asked, "God, can I have a penny?"

God said, "In a minute."

Two little boys had a reputation for getting into trouble. One Sunday, one boy was home sick, so the other boy, not wanting to let his friend down, was twice as bad as normal. As he was running through the sanctuary after church, the pastor grabbed him and angrily said, "Where's God?!" The little boy didn't know what to say. The pastor continued, "I want you to go home and think about it and I don't want you to come back until you can tell me where God is."

The boy went home and called his sick friend. "Guess what," he said. "They've lost God, and they're trying to blame that on us, too."

