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The Rev'd Canon W. Lynn Dillabough may be reached at 819-239-6902 or lynnedillabough@gmail.com.
The Venerable Dr. Edward Simonton may be reached at 819-679-9957 or edwardsimonton@gmail.com.
The new webmaster for the St. Francis Deanery website is Sam Stewart-Lazanis. If you wish to have news placed on the Deanery website you can e-mail Sam at Sam.lazanis@gmail.com

News and events:

Next Sunday, September 20th services are 9:30am in St. Paul's Church, Bury and 11:00am in St. Peter's Church, Cookshire. **Then there is a service at 6:00pm in St. John's Church, Brookbury** which will be the final service of the season.

Our congratulations and best wishes for a happy anniversary to John and Diana Veary tomorrow and to Ed and Robyn Jacklin on Wednesday.

Saturday, September 26th the Closing and Deconsecration service for Christ Church, Canterbury time is 11:00am. The lunch following the service will be at the Bury Cultural Center.

Sunday, September 27th there is a Deanery Evensong in St. George's Church Lennoxville at 4:00pm.

Sunday, October 4th there will be an EDV Parish service in St. Paul's Bury at 9:30am followed by the annual Parish meeting at 10:30am and then a potluck lunch. Please plan to attend.

Sunday, October 4th Gospel Hour at 2:00pm in St. Augustine's Church, Danville.

Messy Church for families with young children is expected to begin the first Wednesday of October. Please register with Canon Lynn to help with the planning of supper. It will be held in St. Paul's hall in Bury.

There will be a meeting of all the Deanery churches which are members of the team ministry model on Saturday, November 7th at St George's Church in Lennoxville from 10:00 to 12:00. This will be an information and discussion meeting with an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Treasurers and wardens are expected to attend, but the meeting is open to all interested members of the Deanery.

Sentence: I do not glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6.14*

Collect: Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

- We pray for all people; for Dennis, our Bishop, Lynn, our Priest, for all who are in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church. We pray for discernment as we continue to seek to know what God's mission is for us in the Diocese of Quebec and that God will guide us in our search for a new Shepherd to lead us in the years ahead.

- In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer, we pray for The Archdeacons of the Diocese: The Venerable Garth Bulmer (Executive Archdeacon), The Ven. Edward Simonton, (Deanery of St. Francis) and The Ven. Pierre Voyer, (Deanery of St-Laurent); we pray for our Companion Dioceses, The Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and the Diocese of Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, we pray for Bishop David Torraville and the Diocese of Central Newfoundland; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Rt Revd John Tarrant and the Diocese of South Dakota.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania. We pray for an end to corruption and organized crime, high unemployment, and limited supplies of food and housing, for the environment, which continues to suffer severe degradation, and for all those who must deal with the pollution of the air they breathe and the water they drink, for a renewed ecumenical spirit among the churches, for those who face discrimination, hatred and violence on the basis of their ethnicity and religion, for the creation of stable economic and political systems that allow for the participation of all the peoples in these countries, for healing for those who suffered under Marxist regimes and for concerted efforts to help the thousands of Syrian refugees pouring into these countries.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; we ask blessings for John and Diana Veary and for Ed and Robyn Jacklin on their anniversaries; we pray for the remaining congregation of Christ Church, Canterbury as they prepare for the closing and deconsecration of their church.

- We ask, O Lord, for your comfort and healing for all who are sick and suffering in any way, and for their families, remembering especially: Joan Dougherty, and Gordie Coates.

- We pray for the refugee crisis in Europe; we pray for a world of peace and justice for all. **Amen.**

Prayer: Through suffering and rejection, O God, you bring forth our salvation, for in Jesus you embrace our humanity and transform our lives by the glory of his cross. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may rebuke the lure of this world, take up our cross, and follow your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Diocese of Quebec: Loving God, fill us with your Spirit that we may live out with greater faithfulness your call to shine with Christ's light in acts of praise and reconciling love. Make us bearers of the Good News, ministers of your grace, and faithful stewards of your Church and Kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs...¹⁰A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. ¹⁵She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. ²²She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: ²⁹“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” ³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. ³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates. *Proverbs 31:10-31*

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A Reading from the Letter of James...¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ⁴Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. *James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark...³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to

them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” *Mark 9:30-37*

A short reflection on the Gospel reading: After describing the disciples’ continued misunderstanding of Jesus’ passion prediction, this passage shows us their misunderstanding of Jesus’ values. Just as the psalmist and the letter of James advocate prioritizing heavenly wisdom, Jesus treats others according to a heavenly ethic and wisdom, not according to the hierarchical norms of society. The disciples’ concern for “who was the greatest” reflects their earthly priorities, and Jesus shows how a heavenly ethic reverses earthly expectations. “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all,” Jesus says. He illustrates his point by taking a little child (in an age when such children had little social status) and telling his disciples that service to such a child is indistinguishable from service to him. A child without status can be a proxy for God. In our churches, do our children’s ministries demonstrate that we’ve embraced Jesus’ teaching? Jesus used the little child as a stand-in for all those without status and power. Who in our communities (and, beyond them, in the world) are the powerless or neglected, and what would it mean for us to treat them as though they were proxies for God?

Chuckles: One balmy day in the South Pacific, a navy ship espied smoke coming from one of three huts on an uncharted island.

Upon arriving at the shore they were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone on this island for more than five years!"

The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see THREE huts."

The survivor said, "Oh. Well, I live in one, and go to church in another."

"What about the THIRD hut?" asked the captain.

"Oh, that's where I USED to go to church," answered the survivor.

Peter walked up to his teacher's desk, holding a report card with a big red F. "If I were you," said Peter, "I would change this while you still can."

"Why is that?" asked the teacher.

"Because my daddy told me that if I brought home one more failing report card, someone was going to get a beating."

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no body. In the defense's closing statement the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch.

"Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But, you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put to you that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied, "Oh, we looked, but your client didn't."

