

The Ven. Dr. Edward Simonton may be reached at 819-679-9957 or edwardsimonton@gmail.com He will be away all of the month of July. If you would like an event put into the bulletin or a pastoral visit, please contact Jane Bishop at 819-887-6802.

News and events:

Our best wishes for a happy birthday to Shana Sylvester on Wednesday and to Meghan Sylvester on Saturday.

Next Sunday, July 24th, our one-point parish service will be a Service of the Word in St. Paul's Church Bury at 10:30 am led by lay reader, Linda Hoy.

Today is Bury's Church Heritage Tour organized by the Bury Historical and Heritage Society from 10am-5pm. There is a bilingual **Ecumenical Celebration in Canterbury's Christ Church** (which now belongs to the Historical Society) at **2:00pm** with Lay reader Lydia Judge and Pere Donald Thompson and organist Madeleine Irving.

This afternoon at 2 pm, the Eaton Corner Museum invites you to its annual Old Time Hymn Sing at the Museum Church in Eaton Corner. We will make the old church ring with song once more. Accompanied by the Museum's harmonium, we'll raise our voices to sing favourite hymns of our choosing and yours. Light refreshments will follow. No entry fee, but donations will be appreciated. Everyone is welcome. For more information call the Museum at [819-875-5256](tel:819-875-5256) or email us at info@eatoncorner.ca.

Brookbury Community Centre has one more card party in the hall on Tuesday, July 19th at 1:30pm. A lunch will be served. For more information call Brenda at 819-884-5984.

Thursday, July 21st Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Grace Village Pavillion at 1501 Campbell St. in (Huntingville) Sherbrooke at 11:00am. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP requested by July 14th to Emma Mulse at 819-569-0546 ext. 33

July 31st the 5th Sunday Deanery service will be in St. Barnabas Church, North Hatley at 10:30 am with The Ven. Richard Salt officiating. All local churches will be closed.

Also on July 31st at 2:00pm St. John's Cemetery Brookbury will have their annual Flower Service. All are welcome.

Sentence: Blessed are they who hold the word fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. *See Luke 8.15*

Collect: Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives 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 Bishop Dennis, Coadjutor Bishop Bruce, for all clergy, and for those in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church.

- **In our Diocesan** Fellowship of prayer, we pray for the Parish of Richmond, for St. Anne's, Richmond, for Lay Reader Lisa Mason. We pray for all staff and participants; 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 Cycle of Prayer** we pray for the Diocese of Fredericton and for Bishop David Edwards In the **Anglican Cycle** of Prayer, we pray for Province de L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda, for The Most Revd Dr Onesphore Rwaje Archbishop of L'Eglise Episcopal au Rwanda and Bishop of Gasabo.

- **In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** we pray for Christian faith communities in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.

- **We give thanks for** our families, friends, and communities, and we ask blessings for Shana Sylvester and Meghan Sylvester 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, Sandra Hurd, Maria Garcia, Wanda Sylvester, Audrey Dougherty, and Erwin Watson.

- **We pray for** the farmers and a good growing season for their crops; for all migrant workers who are away from their families for seasonal work; for an enjoyable summer for all students, teachers, and support staff, and all who are on vacation; for all traveling; for the people of France and for all who died and those injured in its city of Nice; for an end to terrorism and gun violence; for mercy, peace, and justice in the world. **Amen.**

A prayer for Agriculture: Almighty God, we thank you for making the fruitful earth produce what is needed for life. Bless those who work in the fields; give us favourable weather; and grant that all may share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Unemployed: Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use their wealth and resources that everyone may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labour; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 Hosea...²When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.”³So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.⁴And the Lord said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.”⁵On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”⁶She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them.”⁷But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen.”⁸When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.⁹Then the Lord said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God.”¹⁰Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” *Hosea 1:2-10*

Psalm 85 (BAS page 818)

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians...⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him,⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.
(¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths.¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking,¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.) *Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”²He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.³Give us each day our daily bread.⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”⁵And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;’⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.⁷And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you

anything.’⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.”⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” *Luke 11:1-13*

Reflection: Prayer is a puzzle to most of us. I’m not sure most of us even know why it is that we pray. In this self-oriented culture of ours, many people pray as a form of sanctified wish-fulfillment. They think they can put a prayer coin in the slot machine and have all their dreams come true--if they pray the right way. Then there are others who reject prayer altogether as a remnant from the days when people thought God was directly responsible for things like the weather.

Gospel lesson contains three teachings about prayer. I think the one we hear is “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened”. We hear it, and yet I’m not sure we know quite what to make of it. Those who pray only for their own self-interest find in this statement a promise that their wishes will be granted. Those who object to that kind of thinking may simply reject it. It’s problematic at best. After all, who of us hasn’t had the experience of praying for something that seemed right and good, only to ask and not receive? So what do we make of this? I think the first clue to understanding “everyone who asks receives” is that all of our praying must be an expression of seeking first God’s Kingdom. Luke tends to emphasize the importance of persisting in prayer and not giving up. We can trust that God loves us unconditionally and is working in our lives with grace before we even know we have a need. Jesus assured us that we can pray for all our concerns, however long that God knows our needs and is already working in each life to bring grace and peace, and mercy and love, and new life.

Chuckles: While sports fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft.

Spotting and old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?!"

"Naw," the man hollered back, "they ain't been around for years!"

"Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore.

About halfway there he asked the guy, "How'd you get rid of the gators?"

"We didn't do nothin'," the beachcomber said. "The sharks got 'em."

A man loved to play golf. It was the one activity he looked forward to every week. One Saturday, he returned home from a scheduled three-some much earlier than his wife expected. She asked him why he was home so early.

"Do you want to play golf with someone who whines about every shot, complains about everything on the course, and makes noises when you're trying to make an important shot?", he asked.

"No, I don't," answered his wife.

"Well, neither did they!"

