

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Holy Week and Easter

What an inspiring Holy Week we have just passed at the cathedral. Thank you to everyone involved – clergy, servers, homilists, choir, vergers, stewards, readers, intercessors, decorators and coffee hour hospitality team. Thank you to George and Amy for keeping everyone organized. George as always lit a blazing fire in the forecourt as the Easter Vigil started, and kept it going while the congregation listened to Old Testament readings in the darkened Cathedral before spilling out to light the paschal candle. Thank you to Nick, Rob and Sarah for directing the choirs and playing the organ, enabling us to worship with beautiful music. Thank you to the brave lay people who delivered heart-felt and challenging meditations; Noah, Jason, Steve and Jeffrey. Thank you to the clergy, Bishop Mary, Bertrand, Amy, Jean-Daniel and Karen Egan, for leading the services and preaching inspiring sermons.

For as long as most of us can remember Dorothy Oidi has led the group making palm crosses. This year she was critically ill in intensive care. However, some of her beautiful palm decorations were found, and graced the Cathedral, including the Gethsemane garden. To make 500 palm crosses, 12 volunteers gathered, including several who had never done this before. Thank you to Janet King for taking the lead.

Music and Musicians

1. Our lead tenor, Walter Mahibir, will be giving a choral conducting recital as a final part of his degree at McGill. You may remember that he brilliantly conducted the Sing-along Messiah at the cathedral last November. His McGill recital will be on Tuesday, May 7th at 5:00 pm in Pollock Hall, 555 rue Sherbrooke Ouest. He is calling the programme Ouroboros – an intriguing title, referring to the snake who eats his tail, a symbol of eternity and of the cycle of life and death – You can have fun guessing what choral pieces will fit this theme!
2. Rob Hamilton, our acting co-music director, is sadly leaving us at the end of May to pursue his studies in Rochester, NY. He is giving his last Montreal recital on April 30th at 8pm in Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, 4237 Avenue Henri Julien. He writes: “Last chance to hear me play before I lock myself in a library! Come hear some classic tunes by Marcel Dupré, Herbert Howells, JS Bach, Peter Eben and Olivier Messaien.” Rob’s music-making has been a delight here in the Cathedral. He will be particularly missed by the 9:00 am congregation when he usually provided the music for the service, improvising on the piano.
A farewell reception for Rob will be held following the 10:30 am service in the Baptistry on May 26th. If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift, please put your contribution in the offertory, marked “Gift Rob” or send it to Elizabeth in the office. E-transfers to accounting@montrealcathedral.ca are a very easy way of sending money.
3. Our new director of music, Jonathan White, is arriving on May 29. Bertrand is asking the congregation for help as Jonathan settles into Montreal. Here are three practical contributions you or one of your friends might be able to make.
 - a) Give Jonathan a home for a couple of weeks while he gets his bearings.
 - b) If you are going away for a period would you be happy to let your flat or house?
 - c) Let Bertrand know if you have or know of an apartment (probably 4 ½) conveniently located either near a Metro line or within easy reach of the cathedral. Jonathan does have a cat that he is planning to bring to Montreal.
4. There are two interesting concerts being presented by Oasis musicale this Saturday. The first, at 2:00 pm, features the masters’ class of Université de Montréal showcasing strings and piano. The second at the usual time of 4:30 pm is presented by the Choeur de la Société de concerts de Montréal, Félix Dupont-Foisy, chef, Gohar Manvelyan, piano, and “explores our fascination with the celestial bodies through different periods” <https://www.facebook.com/OasisMusicale/>
5. And don’t forget our lovely peaceful Evensong at 4 pm on Sunday. Ben Stuchbery will officiate and the choir under Nick’s direction will sing music by TL Victoria, Thomas Morley, Robert Parsons and John Taverner with organ voluntaries by JS Bach and Healey Willan.

Outreach from the Cathedral to the larger community

1. At Forum last Tuesday those present voted that the Cathedral as an entity should join Coalition inclusion Quebec, which is rallying opposition to Bill 21, the bill preventing people in authority from wearing religious symbols. You can find out more about the aims and activities of this organisation on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/InclusionQuebec/>. The coalition is one of 36 groups and individuals who have been invited to comment on Bill 21 before a parliamentary commission in early May.
2. On May 5 the Cathedral is hosting the **40th Christian Commemoration of the Shoah: Lessons of the Shoah: From Memory to Action**, with the following events
2:00 pm panel discussion, Fulford Hall,
4:00 pm service at the Cathedral
5:00 pm reception, Fulford Hall.
It will help the organisers if you register on Eventbrite [40th-commemoration-of-the-shoah-in-montreal](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-commemoration-of-the-shoah-in-montreal) Click on register.
3. We have already been contacted about the Quebec-wide Journées de la culture which will take place Friday Sept 27 to Sunday Sept 29. <https://www.journeesdelaculture.qc.ca/> This year the theme is La rencontre – tisser les liens, bâtir des ponts, a perfect opportunity for us to show our belief in inclusivity.
There will be a meeting during May to discuss our ideas for celebrating the weekend. Please contact me if you’d like to be involved in the planning. Time to put on our thinking caps!

Other Events

1. April 28 Farewell reception for Amy in the Undercroft following the 10:30 am service during which Amy will preach and will be blessed for her new ministry.
2. April 28 End of the month lunch for people in need sponsored this month by Lower Canada College.
3. April 28, 7:00 pm, the Cathedral Reading Group meets to discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by James Daniel Brown and to share ideas for future reading. Contact Jane, Ann, Diana or another member of the group for the address where we are meeting.
4. May 5 Pain partage et prière, French bible study in the Undercroft after 9:00 am service
5. May 5 QueerSpace@ CCC, 12:15 am in the Undercroft.
6. May 7, Tuesday at noon, Lunch ‘n chat. Potluck lunch and talk about “to be or not to be”.