



Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Two weeks ago – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> as it happened – the newsletter was ready to go, filled as usual with upcoming events at the cathedral, and then the thunderbolt struck, the cathedral was closed and we gradually went into isolation. Wonderful to relate the Cathedral is still a very busy place with outreach now offered on social media – Sunday services by zoom, daily coffee mornings and tea parties, midday prayers, daily offices along with thoughtful meditations on the web site under the heading Daily Bread, as well as emails and phone calls. Please go to <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/in-the-time-of-covid-19/> to see information and links about these initiatives and other activities.

I want to use the weekly newsletter to report on what people are doing; here is the first installment, starting with the **people we would usually see in the cathedral offices.**

**Jonathan** is in the Cathedral every day leading a virtual congregation in prayers at midday, starting at 12:15 pm. He was also there Sunday evening with Angèle Trudeau presenting music for choral Evensong and again on Tuesday evening, alone in the church, lit by red candles at his feet and candelabra at his shoulders, singing compline with St Matthews Episcopal church in Wilton. Who knew that Jonathan could sing like a choirboy? It was beautiful. The wonderful thing about the internet is that you can watch something you missed at a later time. I'm listening as I write <https://youtu.be/DiAZKcPDLG4>. Jonathan has also recorded some organ recitals which you can find through the music page of the cathedral website. Adding to all these other activities, Jonathan is preaching at the 8:00 and 10:30 am zoom services this Sunday.

**Elizabeth** is working from home, still upbeat and funny in spite of everything. This is how she describes her life these days

My kitchen table has been converted into the office; at dinner time we set up tv tables facing each other to give a little bit of the feeling of sitting down to a proper supper. My view is of the backyard, which is nice. On the sunny days the sunbeams pour in which is wonderful. I do find it rather strange when the phone rings and while sitting in my kitchen answering "Good Morning Christ Church Cathedral. It's hard to start and finish my day as I would in the office, because in fact I am pretty much living in my office.

I know routine is important, so I'm up and out of the house early in the morning for a walk – which I think of as my commute to the office. I'm trying hard not to take it personally that people are holding their breath when they pass me on the street. We are all of course making a wide berth as we pass. Then some time with my Bible and I try to read a chapter of a book at lunch time to get my eyes off the computer screen. Knowing once I sit down at the computer I tend to get lost in my work and forget to get up and move I have set chimes on my phone, so every hour on the hour I get up and do some yoga stretches. Sounds silly and sometimes feels silly, but beneficial when staying inside so much.

Bertrand has done an incredible amount of work to keep us all together and set up online, so the pace has not slowed down, I do miss the banter from the office, especially on Tuesdays when all the volunteers are in. My daughter, who lives in PEI has been laid off, as many others I know have. I am very grateful that I can continue to work within such a great community....that now seems to live inside of my computer!

**Deborah** too stays cheerful as she writes about her experience of working from home: "When I learned I was going to come back (from a visit to the States) into a 14-day self-isolation, I was a bit nervous. I make an annual silent retreat of five days, but in community, so two weeks of solitude seemed a challenge of a different order. Instead, it has been full to overflowing: with the work needed to shape on-line liturgies and creative new offerings and a new form of pastoral care; with calls from friends and Zoom meetings; with long walks (properly distanced) along the Canal. I am grateful for the many parishioners who have reached out in love and concern to me and to one another, and to the resilience and dedication of my colleagues. Even in these strange times, it is a gift to serve at this Cathedral. I am offering pastoral care by Zoom, FaceTime, and telephone, so if this difficult time begins to weigh on you, by all means, let me know."

#### **And what about some of our fellow parishioners?**

**Beth Adams** has been writing blogs on her Cassandra Pages (to be found on Facebook) which she calls her Hermit Diary. Her meditations are always worth reading for their beautiful descriptions and profound insights. Perhaps we should all be keeping a "Journal of the Plague Year" as a gift to historians in the future.

**Edward Yankie** is working on a screenplay

**Rosemary Cass Beggs** has been organizing all her neighbors in the West Island to bang pots out their windows as a gesture of gratitude to healthcare workers.

**Ben Stuchbery and Erica** have been livestreaming the daily offices over the Montreal Diocesan College Facebook page. I have been bookending my days by joining morning prayer at 9:00 am and compline at 9:30 pm. They also offer midday prayer and evening prayer <https://www.facebook.com/groups/202004454366423/>  
**Adrian King-Edwards and Donna Jean-Louis** who run the end of the month lunches for those in need are organizing a takeout ham sandwich lunch for anyone of their clients who show up. They have enough volunteers to make the sandwiches, but do need someone to volunteer to give out the lunches in a plastic bag at arm's length. Please email Elizabeth ([cathedral.administrator@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:cathedral.administrator@montrealcathedral.ca)) or reply to this letter and we'll pass your name on.

**Adrian** owns the famous Word bookstore. The Word is offering bargain book boxes delivered to your door. Six books for \$45, ten for \$55 (wow!). Here's how it works. You choose from one of three categories – classic fiction, contemporary fiction, or a surprise box and the select a small or large box. Send a message to Adrian at [wordbook@securenet.net](mailto:wordbook@securenet.net) with your name, address and phone number and his staff will select your box of books. They are currently offering free delivery to Montreal residents in the Plateau, Mile End, Parc EX, Westmount, NDG, St. Henri and Verdun. Do I need any more books? No. Have I ordered a box? **Yes!** Supporting small businesses is an important contribution at this time – so please overwhelm Adrian with orders. Think of having a lovely present delivered to your door. Or order a box for a friend who might need cheering up.

There are many organisations needing our financial help. One of course is the Cathedral no longer able to pass the collection plate or get money from the candlestand and the offering boxes. I wonder if we could each picture an American tourist on a particular Sunday and guess what amount they might have put in the collection plate – and then add that amount to our own weekly offering?

### **A note from the treasurer – a gentle reminder that the Cathedral needs your continuing financial support.**

As the Cathedral collection plate cannot be passed physically at this time, please consider one of these options for making your weekly donation.

#### **etransfer to [accounting@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:accounting@montrealcathedral.ca)**

- ✓ No security question/answer is required – the money will be deposited immediately into the Cathedral bank account.
- ✓ Please be sure to enter your name and what your donation is for (i.e: regular, spire, flowers) in the message box provided by the bank and/or follow up with an email to alert the bookkeeper (using the same accounting email address). Doing so will ensure that your donation is recorded correctly for your tax receipt at the end of the year.

**PAR (pre-authorized remittance).** To set this up, you fill out a one-time form indicating the amount you wish to give monthly, and then send a scan of it and a VOID cheque to the Treasurer, Jane Aitkens at [treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca)

The amount you specify is withdrawn from your bank account around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. The form is on the web here: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Registration-Form-PAR-donors.pdf>

**NEW! Tithe.ly giving app** Follow this link to download the app (iPhone or Android):

<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>

Search for Christ Church Cathedral and then enter your credit card number to make your donation. If you create an account, Tithe.ly will keep track of all your donations.

It is possible to set up a recurring payment – weekly, every two weeks, twice a month, or monthly. Tithe.ly links up automatically with the Cathedral's donation register, so that we are able to easily add your Tithe.ly donations to your Cathedral tax receipt at the end of the year.

**CanadaHelps:** Follow this link to give via the web: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/5518>

N.B. CanadaHelps issues its own tax receipts at the point of donation. Also, their fees are the highest of the four ways to give mentioned here.

For any questions you can email the Cathedral: [accounting@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:accounting@montrealcathedral.ca) or the Treasurer: [treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca)

A second organisation looking for donations is **PWRDF** which is reminding us of the last call to contribute to their All Mothers and Children Count programme in Tanzania. Until the end of March, the Canadian Government will still **match (six to one!!)** your contribution. Until March 31st you can also still buy a goat, chicken, or even cow "for" a loved one - who will receive a card, while the actual animal, and six more their kind, will go to a family who are receiving support and training in working toward food security. During his visit to Montreal, the bishop of Masasi (our longtime prayer partners) explained that having a chicken and eggs of one's own ultimately protects the rainforest, since people are then not forced to harvest wood to provide necessities for their families. .

Moreover:

**NEW: PWRDF COVID response.** PWRDF is accepting donations to support our partners responding to COVID-19. Please make your gift in [Emergency Response](#) and indicate COVID-19 in the message box. You can also donate by phone by calling 1-866-308-7973 toll-free (please leave a message and we will return your call), or 416-822-9083. You can also donate by mail. Simply write COVID-19 in the memo field of your cheque and mail to PWRDF, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2. Details on the PWRDF website.

Now here is something that will cost you nothing except a couple of minutes of your time. This information was in the cancelled newsletter, but it's still pertinent. Please help this bright high school student from Ottawa. We often pride ourselves on maintaining the tradition of cathedral choral music. Now's your chance to express your opinion in a survey created by Abigail Potter, a young student who is **conducting a research project assessing the vitality of choral music within urban, Central-Canadian cathedrals in the Anglican Church of Canada.** This short, anonymous, survey asks members of the congregation to comment on their cathedral choirs and their experience with the cathedral's music ministry. I hope you will all fill in the survey which is short and simple and only takes about a minute to complete. Here's the link <https://forms.gle/iDaKKZSJButu98xx8>

At a time when many of us may be thinking of our vulnerability to illness a bit more than usual, Bertrand and Deborah are going to share information about medical decisions, advance directives, and discussing your desires with your loved ones. The Zoom session will be held Wednesday evening, April 1st, from 7:30-8:30 pm, in both French and English, and will end with Compline at 8:30 pm. <https://zoom.us/j/268545783>.

A fun suggestion from Deborah: As we move into Holy Week, she will be hosting two sessions of Jesus at the Movies, discussing films which you can see on your own because they are available on YouTube. Times for the discussions will be posted later, but if you are looking for some good viewing, you might want to tune in to *Babette's Feast* or *Jesus of Montreal*.

Finally, perhaps we could all participate in Earth Hour this Saturday, March 28 between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. Turn off your lights and your media devices (ouch) and light a candle, or more, then at 9:30 pm with the electricity back on join Ben in the Daily Office feed for compline.

Dear friends, I hope you are all well and as happy as possible. Please email me at [ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca) to tell me how you are passing your time in quarantine for inclusion in the next letter. One contributor will be our busy Dean who is keeping the cathedral boat afloat in these turbulent seas.

Let us all join in a prayer of St Francis de Sales

*Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father who cared for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.*

Ann Elbourne  
March 26, 2020