

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Just over 10 weeks ago we had to close our cathedral building and it's not at all clear when we will be able to open our doors again. When President Trump ordered churches in the US to reopen, bishops, priests and church members hastened to remind the world that church goes way beyond the buildings where people meet. This has certainly been true of the Cathedral during the pandemic. We have truly been good neighbours showing love, compassion and a determination to keep our community alive by responding to its needs. Please visit our website to discover the multiple ways we are worshipping together and keeping in touch with each other.

One topic that has concerned some is our inability to participate in the Eucharist. Our Dean Bertrand writes:

'The House of Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada originally called us to a Eucharistic fast, which fitted well in the overall theme of Lent and our thoughts then that this might be a limited season. Whilst the idea of fasting from something so essential for many of us may have felt strange, it is not without precedents – and is part of the worshipping life of many isolated communities who do not have ready access to a priest. What this time of refraining from communion did was to help us think through how to move forward as a community of communities and where we still found the Eucharistic life amongst us, even online.

Members of the leadership and cathedral community have contributed their reflections on this topic, among them Deborah, in her contribution to Daily Bread for May 28, titled *Flesh: Some Thoughts on Sacrament and Community at a time of Zoom*. <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/in-the-time-of-covid-19/> and Jonathan, in his on April 28, titled: *Bread of life*. <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/2020/04/bread-of-life/> When the primate visited us she suggested a number of resources which you can find on the same part of the web site, including some reflections about online Eucharist and a letter from Bishop Mary dated April 8 mentioning spiritual communion.

As we await news as to when and how the Cathedral might reopen, the reality is that Cathedral worship is likely to never be what it has been, or certainly not at least for the foreseeable future. Our strategic groups working at reopening to the public and reopening for worship are looking at the drastic conditions under which we may need to operate, and at this point, Corporation has decided that – bearing in mind that our building is in the midst of major building works again – we will not be opening again for any purpose before at the very least 1 August 2020.

Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is moving us to resume our sacramental Eucharistic life. As I am preaching on Sunday – the feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, I will take the opportunity to outline how I believe the Cathedral is called to fulfil this command of Jesus, that we might do this in remembrance of him. I look forward to seeing you on Zoom at any of our services on Sunday'.

We have celebrated Easter and Ascension via zoom, and now we have come to Pentecost. Deborah is urging us to make this coming Sunday a joyful experience. Here's her suggestion:

Sunday is Pentecost: the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples as tongues of fire. The day when Christ empowered the church to bring his message to the world. In a "normal" year, we would break out the splendid vestments, the festal choral music, flowers in colors of flame. But this is not a normal year; it is a year when we really need some joy. So, we invite you to make yourself a crown of fire to wear during our Zoom worship. You can find a pattern here: <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/07/06/the-day-of-pentecost/>



[The Day Of Pentecost « Crafting The Word Of God»](https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/07/06/the-day-of-pentecost/)

The Day Of Pentecost. Posted on July 6, 2013 Updated on December 23, 2013. You can find this craft all over the internet. Its very quick and easy to make, but kids love making it. This craft is a good way of illustrating the story of the day of Pentecost to your kids.

www.craftingthewordofgod.com

The pattern assumes you've got a stash of construction paper; if not, you could just color the pieces in. Or you could get creative and make your own. (Please: no "live" flames!)

Later this coming Sunday at 7pm, the **Cathedral Book Group** will be zooming to discuss *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend* by Matthew Dicks. If you'd like to join us, please contact Jane Aitkens to get the zoom link.

Lisa and Joseph have been delivering orders of items from the stock of the **Fair Trade Boutique**. They write:

For any coffee drinkers (albeit serving their coffee on ice these days!), a new order has been placed for direct fair trade coffee beans from Level Ground Trading which are featuring a number of new roasts, along with fair trade Black Pepper (whole) sourced from Sri Lanka from small-scale farmers which is on Sale now for \$8 - recommended for all your summer salads and BBQ creations.

You can see what is available:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/IRMenh5mth8204T6DQmq5IAPzUN38SiatEn4iXwMb69c/edit?usp=sharing>.

Please take a look, and if you want to place an order write to fairtrade@montrealcathedral.ca

Last Saturday a large group attended an online **mini conference on bio diversity** beautifully organized by Brenda Linn and Edward Yankie. Its success represented hours of hard work and some technological wizardry. Deborah and Bertrand bookended the conference with their reflections and prayers. In the morning various people read a greeting to the natural world accompanied by some stunning images and at the start of the afternoon Michael Pitts read a traditional prayer of the Lakota people. Thought-provoking presentations were made by Michele, Rattray, Meg Graham and Taddy Stringer. The conference was recorded and will soon be available on the Cathedral website. Conference participants were left with much to ponder and some challenges to action. Brenda writes

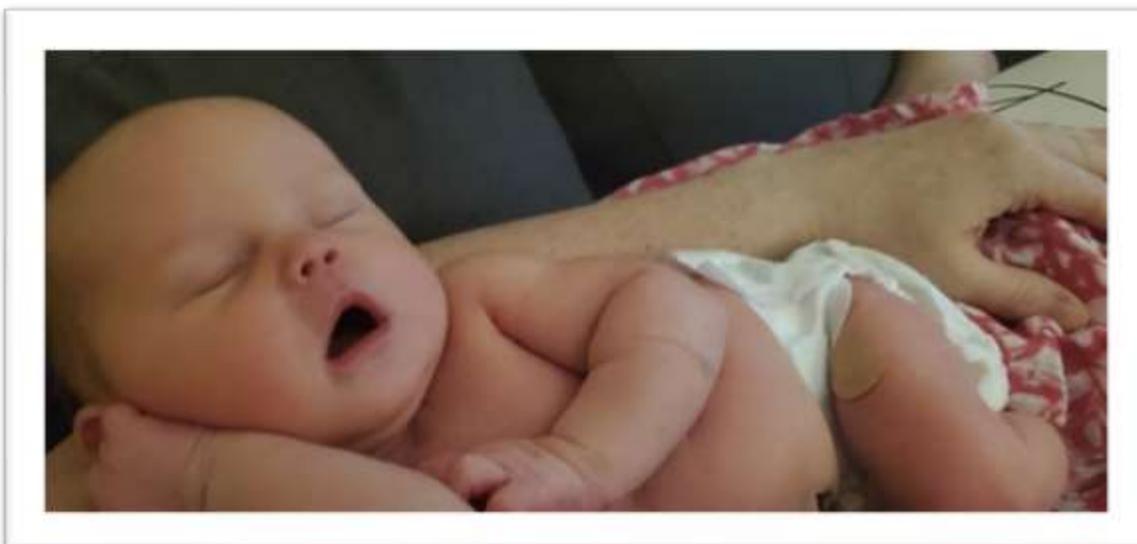
If there could be a one-sentence take-home message from Christians, COVID and the Biodiversity Crisis, it would be this: as a Christian community, we cannot allow the COVID 19 victims to have died in vain. Even as we mourn, we need to commit ourselves to working for a just and green recovery that protects the biodiversity on which our future depends. This is a pivotal moment in the history of our planet - a moment that will not come again.

I was sent an email today by Sum of Us with links to a document describing six principles of a **just recovery for all** after the crisis is contained. It's worth a look <https://justrecoveryforall.ca/>

Good News! A book published, a prize won and a baby born!

- The new book is a collection of poetry *Gaptoothed* by parishioner Robin Durnford. It is available for order directly from the publisher, Gaspereau Press. I'm eagerly awaiting my copy!
http://www.gaspereau.com/bookInfo.phpAID=0&AISBN=9781554472093&fbclid=IwARIjX5ndV_QbxBf0f302dusf6yup3FCkjbkvNEU56Zjm8xIN4_mqRCWpaw
- Georgie, 11-year-old daughter of Rodney and Victoria recently heard news that she won third prize in this year's McEntyre Writing Competition. Her entry, "Léa, elfe libre," a vividly portrayed feminist elf diatribe, will be published in next week's newsletter.
- The new baby is the daughter of Amy and Greg and a sister to Hunter and Declan Congratulations to the new family.

Saoirse Kathleen James, born Friday May 22, at 12:30 am.



I've been asking children and parents about their experience of home schooling. Nathan Elliott responded with this funny description of life with son Sam, travelling back to the beginning of the quarantine. (Nathan is married to poet Robin)

Vignettes from Home School: Nathan Elliott

Yesterday morning, my wife and I have a tense discussion about the exact location of Sam's math book. I'm convinced that it doesn't matter much anyway, "I think they were through with that book. I think the new book, the new workbook, is still up at school."
My wife, smelling the sharp tang of self-justification in the air, isn't buying it. "We need that book," she says, typing a quick note to his teacher, "he needs it to review the curriculum. He needs to keep up with his classmates. He needs to be able to do what they do." Three hours later, after I finish teaching two online classes of my own, I manage to fish it out of the disaster site we creatively, optimistically call his room.

A week ago.

"I keep trying to teach Sam something, and we start off well, but then. . . ."
"Yeah?"

We've just finished lunch. I'm drinking really excellent Irish Breakfast Tea, tea so good it deserves capital letters and gives the lie to any self-pity I might have about how hard this 'confinement' thing all is.

"Well, he keeps tricking me."

"Tricking you how?"

I'm pouring in really fresh, whole, organic milk from the glass bottle it was delivered in. This tea is about all I have mental space for at the moment.

"Tricking me into learning about dinosaurs. We'll be doing a poem or something, or a writing exercise. . . ."

"Right."

"And the next thing I know I'm learning about the predominate characteristics of the Jurassic Period. Me."

Three weeks ago: We're using Wikipedia, last refuge of the historical scoundrel, but he's eight, so whatever. All we're looking for here is the basic outline of French history, something to go with the French I'm—ever so incompetently—trying to teach him.

We're up to the French Revolution. It's time for a YouTube break. Daddy needs, tea, maybe some of that Irish Breakfast Tea we got in the grocery delivery yesterday. . .

I search "French Revolution" in the Google machine.

I hit the 'video' button.

"Oh yeah, yeah." Sam's voice gets excited. "That's a good one."

I cock my head at him.

"You've seen it?"

"Yep. That's a good one too."

"How 'bout this one, you've seen it?"

"It's okay. Not as good as the other one." He shrugs his review.

I've forgotten his intense French Revolution phase last year. He built a guillotine out of Lego, and had to be brought back off the balcony when he kept showing it off to strangers on rue de Lanaudière. When we bought a Halloween pumpkin at the grocery, he marched it down Mont Royal shouting "BEHOLD THE HEAD OF A TYRANT!"

And apparently, he spent Saturday mornings for a month in September and October of 2019 watching French Revolution videos.

Eight Weeks ago: Spouse and son spend most of a week's afternoons researching various Irish Bog Bodies. Sam develops complicated views on the various bodies and speculates on various causes of ancient execution. He has a favorite corpse, and he likes to ask me during 'bath chats' about my favorite Irish bog preserved cadaver. When his grandmother wants to know about the Bog Body picture on Instagram, he willingly gives her a ten-minute lecture. I'm pretty sure Irish Bog Bodies are NOT on the English Montreal School Board curriculum.

School Conference, about a week before the advent of 'le confinement,' we listen in bafflement to his English teacher tell us that our son has *finally* learned to love learning.



If you are missing the **cathedral's music** you might like to visit the cathedral's music on facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cccmusic/> Here you can listen to organ vespers, see and hear members of the choir sing *sicut cervus* by Palestrina and enjoy other concerts. Look out for a new offering from the choir.

Dear readers, your anecdotes, poems, pictures and serious contributions are rays of sunshine. Please keep contributing. It's a lovely way to keep connected.

J'aimerais en particulier recevoir des contributions de membres de la congrégation française.