

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Members of the congregation will have received a letter from our Dean, Bertrand, summarising the meeting of Forum held on Tuesday which discussed how the Cathedral might respond to the **Black Lives Matter** movement. A working group will carry on the discussion and make proposals. Please contact Bertrand if you are interested in being involved. If you didn't get the letter you can read it on the Cathedral's Facebook page [https://mailchi.mp/6a9d13f7c0ca/whats-on-at-christ-church-cathedral-montreal-6439042?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/6a9d13f7c0ca/whats-on-at-christ-church-cathedral-montreal-6439042?e=[UNIQID])

The Dean also discussed the **re-opening of the Cathedral**. Various scenarios are being considered by two working groups, but opening will not happen before August 1 at the earliest. Meanwhile Les Promenades under the cathedral will open on June 19 and the Osteria Mkt Restaurant in the old Parish House will reopen on June 25. Construction is in full swing on St Catherine. The city has sent the office a letter warning of dust, noise and vibration!

Here is a reminder of a cause which many of us probably support, sent by Peter Huish:

Christ Church Cathedral - Guaranteed Basic Income – how can you help?

On behalf of the Diocese of Montreal Bishop Mary, along with the House of Bishops, has sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, and to The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, a letter asking for a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) to be instituted in our country as a more efficient and equitable way to make sure that everyone has a minimum of support for living. The letter is here: <https://www.anglican.ca/news/a-public-letter-on-guaranteed-basic-income/30026458>

You are asked to send your letters of support. Please contact Peter to get templates and addresses

Summer is a good time for reading so the rest of this letter will be about enjoying this activity, beginning with two exciting invitations:

1. Donna and Adrian at The Word Bookstore have recently acquired **Donald Boisvert's Library**. Any Cathedral members wishing to purchase books from this collection will be offered a discount. They have all of the very best books from his library on display on their front table in the store on Milton.



2. **News from the Cathedral's francophone community** (a translation of the French notice for the French version of the newsletter, both written by Gwenda Wells)

Booklovers will soon have an opportunity to join a French book club which will meet once a month on Zoom, paralleling the cathedral's English book club which has been meeting for over thirty years! A small group has met to discuss logistics and goals, and developed an initial list of titles chosen to be inclusive, readily accessible and likely to prompt lively discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. Though few of the books will be openly theological, it is our goal to select books that will be relevant to the group of Christians we are discovering ourselves to be. It is our hope to broaden our reading habits, to include fiction, biographies and other non-fiction titles, and why not? perhaps an occasional graphica book.

The cathedral's francophone community is growing, and this club will give us one more way to open our 'virtual doors' even during this time of social isolation. While many of the books we'd like to include are available from libraries, it may be necessary from time to time for participants to acquire a book at a bookstore or online, so that we can include newer publications and occasionally books less readily available. To join the club, all you need to do is sign up, read the book and have an Internet connection!

This idea began to take shape last summer in conversation with the Rev'd Gwenda Wells. Both we - and she - are delighted that Gwenda will be able to join us as a resource person. Cathedral member and theology student Fresia Saborio has agreed to be our contact person. Please email the Cathedral office at administrator@montrealcathedral.ca to get in touch with Fresia.

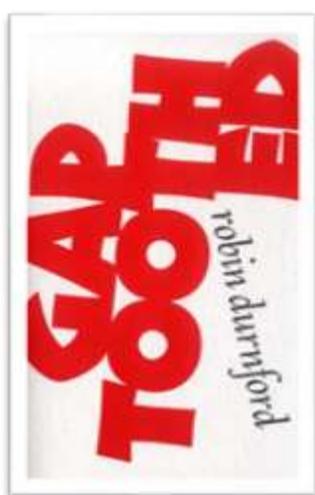
We will have a first meeting to begin bringing together the group and share our hopes for what it might offer on June 20th, 4:30pm; we invite you to find out how to attend by contacting Fresia. The first book title will be announced after this meeting.

Soulever les montagnes, Tracy Kidder, tr. Daniel Poliquin (2011) biographie du Dr Paul Farmer
Le sourire de la petite juive, Abla Farhoud, roman
Tout ce qu'on ne te dira pas Mongo, Dany Laferrière (2015) récit
Manikanetish, Naomi Fontaine (2017) roman
Clin d'oeil au temps qui passe, Antonine Maillet (2019) récit
Le chien qui a vu Dieu, Dino Buzzati (1997) nouvelle et film.

The English book group will zoom on June 28 to talk about JK Rowling's book *The Casual Vacancy*. We are considering choosing a book on the topic of Black Lives Matter for our summer read. You are all welcome to join the discussion. Please contact Jane Aitkens to get the zoom link.

I hope you have been enjoying the two music series about **psalms and hymns** put together by Jonathan and Nick, as well as the latest offering from the choir, a Muppets movie (?!!) and information about Sunday vespers, all to be found on the website <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/music/covid/> or the Cathedral's music Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/ccmtlmusic/>. Nick's latest post is about some of the women who have contributed to the hymns we sing, notably Cecil Frances Alexander, and Jonathan's most recent Psalm is Psalm 97.

The picture is of Cecil Frances Alexander, author of *Once in Royal David's City* among other hymns.



We have a number of writers in our congregation. **Robin Durnford's latest book of poetry** has just been published by Gaspereau Press. My copy arrived a few days ago and I heartily recommend it

Robin has given permission to include the following poem written after the French government closed refugee camps in 2017 and 2018. You can easily guess that Robin is from Newfoundland.

TERRE NEUVE

I struggle with the word for *pain*
au chocolat, to order
the words on the menu

in the middle of a Paris
street where the *beau monde* wear
their hair in chignons beyond chic

je sais que Paris is not
beautiful today *porte de la*
chapelle was cleared yesterday
of refugees sleeping rough on
history's most famous floor
after Calais, that's what they say
at the salon have a brush-

in with a girl in blue glasses fishing
and I say in my green-tinged *anglais*
terre neuve, a shake of the head,
encore again, so I

stumble on in strong
English (as the water falls through
my hair) that I am from a lonely
island stranded in a cold sea-
corner, rugged, rigged,
where people got caught

on a coastline where my son
eats fish-brains
for dinner, and her eyes
get bigger and bigger
as I sink words, drop
soundings into the depths
of this gulf



Banksy Mural Art of Syrian refugee painted after the camps were dismantled