

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

September and October always seem such hopeful months, a season in which we give thanks for creation and take up our tasks with renewed energy after a relaxing summer, so it's appropriate that this year September 20 marks the reopening of the cathedral building for a Sunday service. You will have received an email describing the precautions in place and outlining what the service will be like.

If you're attending the in-person service, which is at 10 am, you're asked to arrive early.



Photo by Ann Elbourne

Please pre-register for in-person worship by following this link:

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/in-person-prayer-services/>

Online Services at 8am, 9am, 10:30am and 7pm (a contemporary bilingual worship service offered by the Ecumenical University Chaplaincy) will still be offered on zoom so you can choose how you want to worship.

We are very happy to welcome Bertrand back after his painful convalescence. He will be preaching on Sunday.

Service opportunity: Now that we are worshiping in-person again, there is an opportunity for us to add new people to our list of stewards and readers. Contact Deborah if you would like to learn about either ministry: deborah.meister@montrealcathedral.ca.

Visitors have been trickling back into the Cathedral during weekdays. The highest number of visitors received in a day so far is 60, mostly people wanting a quiet space for prayer. In normal times that number would have been in the hundreds. As you know, we decided not to participate in Journées de la culture this year, but did create a virtual tour of the outside of the cathedral for Journées du patrimoine religieux last Saturday which can be downloaded onto a phone. You can see the tour on our website <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/exterior-tour/>

Forum learned on Tuesday that the cathedral's plan for installing a new boiler and air conditioning has been submitted. Corporation has been looking at ways to provide better ventilation and air circulation. However, no work will be taking place before the spring 2021 and therefore the cathedral will be heated with the old boilers for the winter. They will be closely monitored – last year the system frequently depended on prayer and the skills of the vergers.

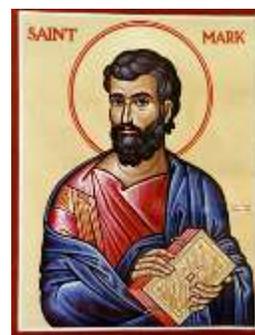
If you were unable to attend the meeting of Forum last Tuesday, but would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the Cathedral Office. Deborah, Bertrand, Michele (speaking for Corporation) and other Forum members shared some very interesting information about our community life.

Chat rooms have been put on hold for a little while – from Friday Sept 21 to Thanksgiving – so that leaders can replenish their energy.

Meanwhile, there are lots of **opportunities for prayer, fellowship and learning**. You can see details on the website <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>

- Still going on: Daily prayers at noon; Monday and Wednesday Morning Prayers; Tuesday Evening Prayer in French
- Gabrielle Boyd is leading a Bible Study for the Season of Creation on the topic of food, on Thursdays at 7pm, until October 1st.
- There are bible studies in English for young adults (postgraduate age) on Thursdays at 7pm and for students on Wednesday at 7pm, as well as a lunchtime bible study in French for students on Thursdays. Contact Jean Daniel, or look for the details of the groups offered to children and young people in the newsletter for September 4 (on the website)
- Bathroom workshop: How to have a plastic-free bathroom, September 27, at 11:45 (after the 10:30 service). Gabrielle writes: Aware of the problem of plastic pollution but finding it a little overwhelming to know what you can do about it? Please join us for a presentation of simple ideas and methods that can help you transition away from all those plastic bottles and containers that make their way from the store to your bathroom. No more plastic is our plan!

- French and English book groups are flourishing (see details in last week's letter)
- The Diocesan College is offering an interesting series, Meeting the Messiah: Reading the Gospel of Mark 5 Tuesday evenings Oct 20 – Nov 17, 7pm – 8:30pm Cost \$80, but there might be a reduction for cathedral parishioners <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/meeting-the-messiah/>



News about people

We were sad to hear on Thursday that Gloria Hall, a member of the Cathedral community for many years, died that morning. She was in charge of the Education Library at McGill for many years and helped at least two parishioners find jobs. She gave my daughter, Elizabeth, her first student summer job and put Jane on the ladder of a career as a McGill librarian. Jane remembers that she

“applied in the Education Library for her first job fresh out of library school (1977). Apparently it was between me and another person. She put in a good word for me, and my 40+ year career at McGill began! Church connections at work!”

At that time Gloria's son Ritchie was singing in the choir of men and boys. Gloria was housebound and crippled with arthritis in her later years, but she kept her connection to the Cathedral and was always interested to hear what people were doing. May she rest in well-deserved peace.

On a happier note two babies will be baptized in the Cathedral this weekend; Saoirse, daughter of Greg and Amy will be baptized on Sunday afternoon and Charles, son of Erica and Ben on Monday afternoon at 4 pm. **Welcome to the Christian family.**

Social Outreach

Starting this month, the **Social Service Society** will be able to offer hot meals at the end of the month lunch, as they have received diocesan approval to revise our protocol. They are very happy to receive donations to help support that ministry.

Janet writes that the Dorie Cuming Tea Party did not take place this year, due to COVID restrictions on social gatherings. Several people told Janet that the scones with clotted cream were great and their absence was sadly noted. Dorie Cuming, a former president of the CCC Social Service Society, left money for social events like this, where some 60 significant people of our community enjoyed an elegant tea party in Fulford Hall. Maybe next year, in Jerusalem?

Meanwhile, the CCC Social Service Society continues its mission of caring for people, and would like to remind ladies to register their family names with CCC, so that they may be found when in hospital. They also suggest you put your funeral wishes on record at CCC. They remind us that housebound parishioners are really experiencing cabin fever due to COVID and would welcome cheery phone calls. These concerns arise from experiences in recent months, and apply specially to people who are not comfortable with the computer/internet for contacts. Contact Janet if you would like to be put in touch with one of these people.

Ecological and Social Justice Action Group (ESJAG)

Brenda has written an excellent article for the website, part of the quarterly series called **Turbulent Times**. Do read it. It's a terrific call to prayer and action packed with links to excellent resources <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/2020/08/turbulent-times-quarterly-summer-2020/>

An update from Brenda for the newsletter – Bees



Photo by Elizabeth Shama

This weekend, from tonight (Friday) at sundown until sundown on Sunday evening is the festival of Rosh Hashana -the Jewish New year which is, traditionally, a celebration of the creation of Adam and Eve. In a normal year, many public places in Montreal would be offering their visitors or clients apples to dip in dishes of honey, in token of the sweetness we receive from the Earth.

This year there can be no such public sharing, but this year more than ever it is important for us to keep in mind how much of Earth's bounty we owe to the bees - not only as the makers of honey, but also as a pollinator on which plant life crucially depends. Bees are under threat on all continents, with Africa once again suffering most severely.

Bans on the neonicotinoid pesticides that threaten their survival are being appealed in Europe as I write. Annoying as they can be - both pollinators and petitions on their behalf - they are crucial to the health of our planet. Details in later issues, together with our beautiful pollinator pics - thanks to all who contributed.

A poem by Emily Dickinson to complete this letter
– Thank you Brenda for sharing the poem.

*These are the days when Birds come back—
A very few—a Bird or two—
To take a backward look.*

*These are the days when skies resume
The old—old sophistries of June—
A blue and gold mistake.*

*Oh fraud that cannot cheat the Bee—
Almost thy plausibility
Induces my belief.*

*Till ranks of seeds their witness bear—
And softly thro' the altered air
Hurries a timid leaf.*

*Oh Sacrament of summer days,
Oh Last Communion in the Haze—
Permit a child to join.*

*Thy sacred emblems to partake—
They consecrated bread to take
And thine immortal wine!*



Photo by Elizabeth Shama