



Montréal Gazette

Letter to the editor – 18 March 2021

Dear Sir

What's in a Blessing?

Church news this week has once again made for grim reading for members of the LGBTQ2S+ community as they have been reminded that much as they are valued, their unions may not be blessed.

At Christ Church Cathedral, in the heart of downtown Montreal, we take a different view.

For Anglicans, the role of the Church is not to provide or withhold blessing, but to point to where God's blessing is already present. Our scriptures remind us that 'wherever there is love, there is God' and 'we shall know them by their fruit'. It will be obvious to anyone with eyes to see that God is at work in the lives of people in committed relationship, regardless of gender. LGBTQ2S+ people of faith know the blessing of God in their union and simply want this to be celebrated publicly as part of the wider community.

We have long celebrated the blessing of marriage of couples regardless of their gender at the Cathedral, and our community also organises an annual Semaine de la Fierté/Pride Celebration and join in the joyful march. We do this not out of a misplaced sense of Social Justice, as some would have it, but because our study of scripture allows us to see God at work in the world in ways which our forebears did not. And we know that future generations will be amazed that we had not recognised this sooner.

Yours faithfully

The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier  
Dean of Montreal and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral