

Fr Lapsley on his previous visit to Christ Church Cathedral

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

This Sunday we welcome **Father Michael Lapsley SSM** as our **preacher at 8 and 10:30 am**. He will also lead a discussion at 11:45 am. Translation will be provided as needed.

Some of us have vivid memories of the last time he preached at the Cathedral a few years ago, when we were enthralled and horrified by the story of his life. He was born in New Zealand, ordained in Australia and transferred to Durban in South Africa in 1973 to continue his studies. Apartheidism was at its height, and because he was outspoken in his opposition, he was expelled from South Africa. In 1990, still in exile, and still supporting the struggle for black liberation, he was the victim of a letter bomb which blinded him in one eye and destroyed both his hands. Later he wrote

Somehow, in the midst of the bombing, I felt that God was present. I also received so many messages of love and support from around the world that I was able to make my bombing redemptive – to bring life out of death, good out of evil.

Founder of the Institute for the Healing of Memories, Father Lapsley has made it his life's work to seek for the healing of race-based wounds worldwide.

He has sent us this link to an excellent YouTube video about his life which you might like to watch in preparation for meeting him on Sunday - The Father Michael Lapsley Story with French subtitles:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mujgx0TO48s>

Later Sunday afternoon, at 4 pm, you can attend **Evensong in person**, or listen to it on Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL> or on Radio VM 91.3 FM <https://www.radiovm.com>

A quartet will be singing Choral Evensong every Sunday at 4 pm from now until June 27. A repertoire list of summer choral music will go out on the website and Music at Christ Church Cathedral Facebook page sometime soon. To be included will be a rarely heard Magnificat by Patrick Wedd, discovered while Nick was cleaning out the music library.

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/music/>
<https://www.facebook.com/cccmusic>



Bob and Janet enjoying being in the Cathedral once more.

Every week you can hear recordings of sermons and choral music on the Cathedral's Facebook page, including last Sunday's sermon by Ralph, the farewell to Jonathan, Bronwen's exquisite solo and Choral Evensong with a quartet of singers. <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL>

Last Sunday's outreach lunch was donated by Selwyn House School. Here is Adrian's report, finishing with dive-bombing pigeons.

Once again we were most fortunate with the forecast rain holding off until the afternoon. Our prep on Sunday morning at 8:30 started off badly as John threatened to fire Donna and me for forgetting the quiches at home in the refrigerator. Our excuse was Covid fatigue which I think is quite legitimate. I dashed home around the block in our van and we did get them in the oven in time to be ready by 10.

John served up his magnificent meat balls, carrots, potatoes and gravy. We gave out almost 80 lunches and the leftovers went the Old Brewery Mission. After a little rush at 10 the rest of our guests came one or two at a time right through until 12. We closed at 12:15 and then as we were moving all our things including the coffee urn to the elevator I heard a loud pounding at the door. Our last guest was quite pleased as we gave him a double portion (10) of Peggy's yummy cookies.

Towards the end we put out extra buns on our table outside. This idea wasn't very successful as suddenly we had pigeons dive bombing the buns in an attempt to carry them off. Between guests Donna and I did very much enjoy watching the bees beside us in the tulips.

The lunch was sponsored by our friends at Selwyn House School who have been generously supporting us twice a year for 25 years. Carol Manning who always there for us helped in the kitchen.



Tulips in an earlier Spring before construction started on the Spire.

Cathedral People in the News

1. Convocation 2021 at Dio:

Three of this year's graduates from the Montreal Diocesan Theological College have been active members of the Cathedral. Ben Stuchbery, Fresia Saborio, and Tevfik Karatop will all receive their degrees on Monday, May 3, at 7pm. Convocation will be held virtually. The College will also confer an honorary degree on Elizabeth May, member of Parliament, former leader of the Green Party of Canada, and member of the Diocese of British Columbia. Ms. May will offer the Convocation address. Convocation is free to attend but you must register in advance by following this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111>

2. Cassidy Vanderschee

Cassidy served as deputy warden in 2020 and has been a very active member of the Cathedral for several years. She was the unflappable coordinator of last year's Nuit blanche celebrations at the Cathedral, our last big public event. We are very pleased for Cassidy that she has just been appointed Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the King's University in Edmonton which is a Christian University where Cassidy did her undergraduate studies. She is currently completing a PhD at McGill and will be moving to Edmonton at the end of the summer. Her husband Kaden Forsberg is a member of the Volare tenors trio. You can hear him hitting the high notes in a recent performance of *You raise me up* if you google University of Alberta Opera Workshop Volare.



Kaden and Cassidy

3. Noah Hermes, another very busy volunteer at the Cathedral joined corporation as deputy warden this year. In this photo Noah is organising the children's corner at Nuit blanche 2020.



Opportunities to be involved in Ecological and Social Justice Action

Fair trade delights:

Lisa writes:



We received new Peace by Chocolate fair trade bars - with peaceful slogans like "Bygones be Bygones", "Clean the Slate" and - very good for faith communities "Turn the Other Cheek"!

They make a lovely gift. Available in dark chocolate with cashews, and milk chocolate with hazelnut for \$5.50 a bar. Founded by a Syrian family, the company is committed to hiring 50 refugees by 2022 at its facilities across Canada.



Ceylon pearl rice - a beautiful heirloom pearl rice (short-grain) sourced from Sri Lanka, organic. It is \$12.75 for a 900 gram bag.

For the full stock

list: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/d/1RMenh5mth8204T6DQmq5IAPzUN38SiatEn4iXwMb69c/htmlview?urp=gmail_link&gxids=7628#gid=0

To place a fair trade order to your doorstep, please contact fairtrade@montrealcathedral.ca so Lisa or Joseph can arrange for a delivery.

A Hydro Quebec Consultation

Two weeks ago we enjoyed a stimulating talk from Linda Handiak about the need to protect our oceans and waterways. Afterwards she forwarded an invitation from Hydro Quebec to participate in a consultation about ways to create a greener economy, more sustainable mobility and a better use of energy. If you would like to take part in the consultation, go to <https://www.hydroquebec.com/residential/> and scroll to the heading "Creating the Quebec of our Dreams".



How to say Peace in other languages

An Online Conversation about Truth and Reconciliation

This is an event organised by the Canadian Council of Churches, May 4 at 7pm, in English with French simultaneous translation. If you're interested contact Brenda Linn to get the link to register.



Blessings – Thank you

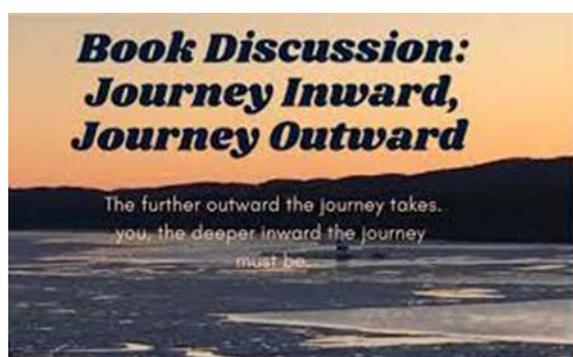
Thank you to the readers, tech crew and musicians who made the presentation of Rich Orloff's *Blessings from the Pandemic* so memorable. Some people asked where they could buy the script. You can order a copy from TRWPlays@theatricalrights.com (prices in USD). This is the complete version. We only used 2/3 of the poems. Thank you also to the ticket-buyers and donors who enabled us to raise over \$4000 for the Spire Restoration Fund. Donations are still coming in, so I can't give an exact figure yet. A donor covered expenses so every dollar being given goes into the fund.

If you would like an opportunity to see more of Orloff's work, Ann is performing with *Dramatis Personae* May 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th at 8pm, in *Zoom in on Love*, which includes two short plays by Rich Orloff. In the first an unborn baby wonders why they need a soul when it will cause them so much pain. In the second humankind is suing God for a divorce on the grounds of neglect. <https://theatrewestmount.weebly.com/reservationstimes-zoom.html>

Remembering Prince Philip

Janet King has sent some information about a musical collaboration being organised by the English Self Isolation Choir which will be presented to Queen Elizabeth on June 10th, when Prince Philip would have been 100 years-old. The choir director wants people across the world to sing the hymn *Eternal Father Strong to Save*, recording it on their phone. If you'd like to be part of this enormous choir, please contact Janet King, who will be participating along with Bob and Vera. She can give you a link and some useful tips.

Reading and Discussion Reminders



First discussion May 10, Chaps 1 - 3

To be discussed May 30



I will finish this letter with the poem from *Blessings from the Pandemic* which started our presentation last Friday. It seems equally appropriate a year after it was written (March 18, 2020).

a prayer for now

*Taking a break this morning from the news and the fear,
I look out the window and see a bright blue sky.
I take a breath and I remember:
I am healthy
I have friends
I am loved
I offer love
I've never really known what the future will bring
I am grateful for the gift of life, however long it will last
These are the truths I will meditate upon during this challenging time
And let us say, Amen.*

Amen indeed.

Ann Elbourne
with thanks to Elizabeth, Marie-Claire and all contributors.
April 30, 2021

PS You'll be glad to know that Elizabeth's lilac survived the snow (see last week's letter).

