

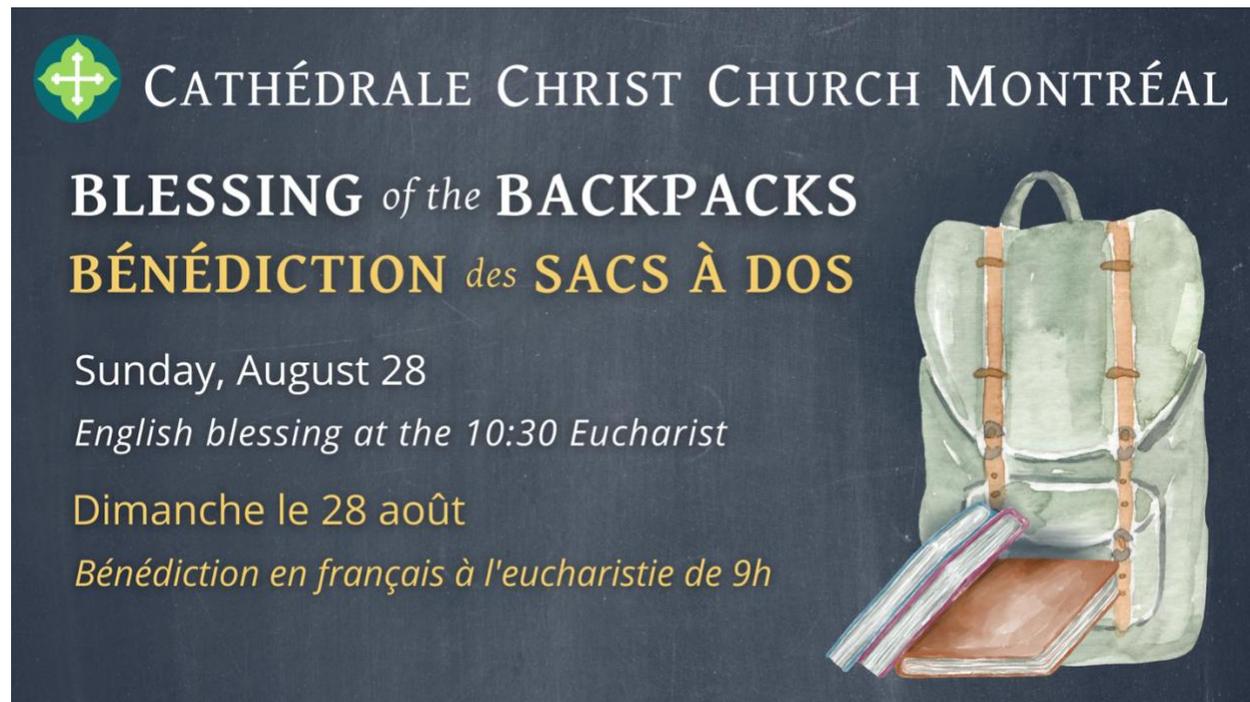
Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Even though we are still basking in summer sunshine our thoughts are beginning to turn towards September and the resumption of classes along with many activities at the Cathedral, some new, others familiar. Here's a selection of activities which might appeal to you in August and September. Thank you to Deborah for the first two items.

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

**August 28th** will see a return of our Blessing of the Backpacks, in which learners and educators of all ages are encouraged to bring themselves and the tools of their trade (backpacks, books, teaching props...) to be blessed at the start of the school year. Blessing will occur at the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Please keep your belongings with you until you are asked to bring them forward.

If you have grandchildren in the Montreal area, or loved ones who are students or teachers, this is a great Sunday to invite them to church!



 CATHÉDRALE CHRIST CHURCH MONTRÉAL

**BLESSING** *of the* **BACKPACKS**  
**BÉNÉDICTION** *des* **SACS À DOS**

Sunday, August 28  
*English blessing at the 10:30 Eucharist*

Dimanche le 28 août  
*Bénédition en français à l'eucharistie de 9h*

### **Survey on Spiritual Growth Activities**

What would help you grow in faith? On **September 11 and 18**, we will be asking you to complete a short questionnaire to help us ensure that our ministries and spiritual growth opportunities are providing what you actually want or need. If you have been longing for something, this is your chance to put it into the basket of ideas!

### **Cathedral Retreat October 21 - 23**

Bertrand will lead a retreat at the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Nazareth in Rougemont, **Friday, October 21 – Sunday October 23**. Please let him know if you are interested – soon is good.

### **Request prayer and volunteer to serve!**

Bob King reminds the 10:30 congregation that there is a sheet at the back of the church on which you can request a prayer for someone in need. Bob would also be delighted to hear from anyone who feels called to be a reader, intercessor or steward.

And if anyone feels so called for the 9:00 service, please speak to Michel Gagnon.

### **Volunteers needed for Special Cathedral Events**

Diana Bouchard is looking for volunteers to enable the Cathedral's traditional participation in Quebec Religious Heritage Days, **September 9–11** and Journées de la culture, **September 30 – October 2**. She writes "This is one of the ways that we reach out to the larger community around us and invite them in to learn more about our heritage and our activities. We intend to put up a number of displays, offer self-guided tours, and let people explore the interior of our beautiful building.



We need a minimum of two volunteers on duty for two-hour shifts from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday September 10 and from 12 noon to 4 PM on Sunday, September 11, to greet visitors at the door and answer their questions as they explore. If you can contribute a couple of hours, please let Diana Bouchard know at [dianab@aei.ca](mailto:dianab@aei.ca) or 514-484-4815.



### **The Cathedral's English Book Club is Back!**

The Cathedral's English book group has plans to read 3 exciting books in the next 3 months. We gather over zoom on a Sunday evening and are delighted to welcome all book-lovers. Here are the books and the proposed discussion dates:

*Burnt Sugar* by Avni Doshi **August 28**

[You can read a review of \*Burnt Sugar\* here.](#)

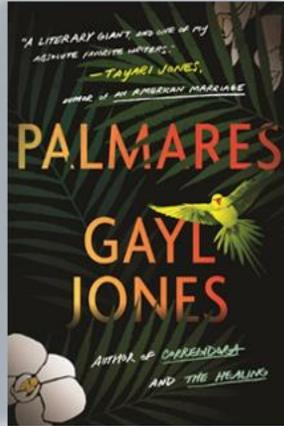
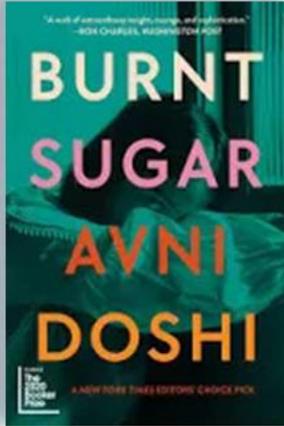
*Palmares* by Gayl Jones **September 25**

*Palmares* begins in the 1670s when its narrator, Almeyda, is a child. Almeyda lives on a Brazilian plantation with her enslaved mother. Palmares is the largest and best known of Brazil's quilombos, communities established by Africans who had escaped slavery. The scale of the transatlantic slave trade to Brazil is often underestimated: of the nearly 11 million Africans taken by force to the Americas, 5 million disembarked in Brazil, over 10 times more than in North America.

*House on Endless Waters* by Emuna Elon, **date tbd.**

This book will be available as a book in a bag from Westmount Library and you can borrow a copy

from Ann Elbourne after the 10:30 service on Sundays October 9 and 16. Let her know if you want to reserve a copy.



### **About the Lambeth Conference**

The Lambeth conference is now over and our Bishop, Mary, is back home, feeling tired and headachy after a bout of COVID at the beginning of August. She has kindly agreed to send us some reflections and photographs for next week's newsletter. [Meanwhile, you can read a message from the Canadian Bishops re Lambeth 2022.](#)

Do keep reading the newsletter for updates and news about our activities, and please pray that they are not derailed by fresh COVID outbreaks.

Ann Elbourne with thanks to Deborah, Diana and Robert for their contributions and to Mailchimp wizard Alex and French proof-reader Michel.

August 19, 2022