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**CATHÉDRALE  
CHRIST CHURCH  
MONTRÉAL**

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

This weekend will be a busy one at the Cathedral.

## **Diocesan Synod**

The annual Diocesan Synod will be held in person on Saturday, June 17. Our delegates are Jane Aitkens and Michel Gagnon. They are authorised to vote on our behalf on a variety of motions which are listed in the convening circular. You can [read the circular at this link](#) and discover the topics to be presented and discussed. If you are interested, you may attend in person as a visitor, or watch the proceedings of the Synod Business session live on the diocesan YouTube Channel. If you want to attend in person, you must register using [the form on the synod webpage](#). Registered members and visitors of Synod are identified by a nametag. Nametags will be issued at registration for Synod (on the second-floor entrance to Fulford Hall.)

You are also invited to attend the Synod Eucharist at 9 am in the Cathedral. Registration is not necessary for this service. You can follow the service at home [on the Cathedral's YouTube channel](#).

## **Giving thanks this Sunday**

Services on Sunday will be joyful as we give thanks for the completion of the spire project. The scaffolding has come down, the cross has been raised high, the clock shows the time and the spire gazes serenely down on Montreal. Soon the detritus from the construction will all have vanished, and flowers will bloom again. Construction has finished, but fund-raising will continue until we are out of debt. Please help if you can. [Click here to donate now.](#)

This Sunday we will also be saying goodbye to Owen Spicer, the cathedral's organ scholar, and thanking him for his participation in the liturgy and in the life of the Cathedral. He takes up the position of Assistant Organist at Christ Church Ottawa, in addition to starting a master's degree in organ at McGill. Congratulations, Owen and thank you. We will miss you.

## Summer at the Cathedral

Students have finished or almost finished their year, and we are all relaxing in the sun, and possibly planning holidays, but summer activities continue at the cathedral, and we will be welcoming many visitors. Here are some of these activities, starting with two exciting offerings on two weekends in mid-July. Deborah and Bertrand write:

### **Sacred Patterns: The Labyrinth and the Mandala**

*From the time the first ancient human ancestor painted a beast on the wall of a cave, people have sought to express their sense of the sacred in visual form. Some of those visual expressions have become spiritual practices in themselves — meditative exercises intended to help people still themselves, find their center, and breathe anew. This summer, the Cathedral will host a two-part series of such exercises:*

*July 7-9, at the end of the Jazz Festival, **a floor-labyrinth** will be on display for any who wish to come and walk it. Labyrinths have played a role in Christian tradition since the Middle Ages, when they allowed people to make a “pilgrimage in spirit” when an actual pilgrimage to a holy site would have been too difficult to undertake. The most famous is the large-scale one embedded in the floor of Chartres Cathedral. The labyrinth will be available at certain hours when hosts will also be present to guide and instruct those who wish to walk it. Please see our website for times of availability or make a note of the schedule below.*

*July 14-15, we will have the opportunity to explore a Buddhist practice as the Venerable Zawa Tulku Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist Lama/teacher, creates **a Tibetan sand mandala** in our building from 10:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00 each day. Mandalas, the Sanskrit word for circle, are at the core of Tibetan Buddhism and represent a pure environment, highlighting a particular quality or virtue such as compassion. The monks who create them suffuse the practice with prayer. The Mandala construction will culminate on the Saturday afternoon with its destruction, symbolising the impermanence of all things.*

*During the Mandala construction, there will be activities for children as well as a small stall of Eastern items.*

### **Schedule**

Friday 7 July, 10 am to 12 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm

Saturday 8 July, 10 am to 12 pm

Sunday 9 July, 12 pm to 4 pm



## Planning

Planning for **Les journées du patrimoine religieux** (September 8 - 10) and **Journées de la culture** (September 30 - October 1) continues under the guidance of Sheena Gourlay. She would love to receive your ideas and your help.

**A time capsule** will be installed on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It will contain a folder illustrating the diversity of our community through photographs and **mini biographies**. This week, I received the first biography and photograph. Which of you will send me the second? Please take a few minutes of leisure time to describe yourself, your role in the church and a little bit about the history of your family. Add a photograph if you like. Send your bio to [ann.elbourne@montrealcathederal.ca](mailto:ann.elbourne@montrealcathederal.ca).

## Food for Thought

### A seminar for young Anglicans

This Saturday Young Anglican Theology is holding an on-line seminar titled "Being Church on Stolen Lands". Edda Wolff will speak about the church learning to ask for forgiveness in Canada. [Follow this link for information and registration.](#)

### An article about poverty by Bertrand

[Here is a link to a Francophone Montreal Christian magazine](#) for which Bertrand has written a short article on poverty. The article is on page 22 and 23. It describes the contrast we see every day at the Cathedral between the crowds who have come downtown to shop or have fun and the destitute people who sleep on the sidewalk. Bertrand discusses 3 approaches to people enduring poverty – to work for, work with, be with. He illustrates the third approach with a description of our end of the month lunches when members of our community sit at tables with our guests.

## **The Summer Edition of the Montreal Anglican magazine**

As described in last week's newsletter this edition includes articles written by three Cathedral members as well as other news and information from around the diocese. You can [read the issue online or download a pdf at this link.](#)

## **A short documentary movie about the people of Lytton**

The people of Lytton suffered from a catastrophic forest fire in 2021. Many lost their homes and are still living far away in temporary accommodation. Lytton sits within the Nlaka'pamux First Nation territory, and the film focuses on the grief which is felt by the indigenous population torn away from their ancestral homes and the land to which they are connected spiritually. We know that fires are increasing because of climate change. This movie brings home the human cost, but also highlights human resilience. [Click here to watch the film.](#)

## **The Replica, a poetic reflection by Rich Orloff**

Rich Orloff wrote the Blessings from the Pandemic performed on zoom by Cathedral members two years ago. He is currently writing a series of "prayer poems" He says that when he was working on a poetry commission from Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Temple Sinai in Toronto, they explored the challenge of overcoming ideas learned about God so that one could fully experience the mystery of God. He is delighted to share his poems with Christ Church Cathedral and says he has fond memories of our community.

### ***The Replica***

*by Rich Orloff*

*I believe in the Commandment  
Not to worship false idols  
But some of them are so shiny and famous  
They obstruct my view of the Divine*

*I think the god I was raised to worship  
Was only a replica of God  
So popular in my neighborhood  
That my parents felt obligated to believe*

*Rooted in their identity  
Not in their experience  
Their God was a concept*

*I hesitate opening the door to God  
Because I fear the replica will enter  
And my disappointment will be so deep  
That I'd prefer atheism to this second-rate deity*

*I open the door just a crack  
Praying to connect  
Not with a replica  
But with the tantalizing incomprehensibility  
Of the Divine*

Thank you to this week's contributors, particularly Bertrand, Deborah and Nick. Bertrand starts a well earned holiday in France next week. We wish him and other holiday makers safe travels. Thank you to Alex for reformatting and posting the newsletter and to Michel for French proofreading.

Ann Elbourne

June 16, 2023

## Happening This Week at the Cathedral

Click the plus button next any event title to view the detailed event page on our website. There, you'll find the Zoom links, the event livestream, location details, and more.

### Saturday

9:00 a.m. **Synod Eucharist and Bishop's Charge** +

2:00 p.m. **Oasis Concert: Après un rêve** +

### Sunday

8:00 a.m. **Holy Communion** +

9:00 a.m. **Sung Eucharist in French** +

10:30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist in English** +

### Monday

9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer on Zoom** +

12:00 p.m. **Brown Bag Bible Study on Zoom** +

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

### Tuesday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

### Wednesday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

6:00 p.m. **Young Adult Supper** *with St. Martha's Chapel* +

### Thursday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

### Friday

*CATHEDRAL OFFICES CLOSED*

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

### Saturday

2:00 p.m. **Oasis Concert: Esther-Ruth Teel** +

We hope you'll join us for worship  
either in-person or online.

[Click here to join the livestream](#)



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