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Hello All! **and welcome to our new weekly newsletter**



**Since the lock-down started, we've been learning how to really use our
online channels and have even added a new one!**

- On our [Web site](#), there's a new section in What's New: **Our Covid-19 Response**.
- Our [Facebook page](#) is updated regularly with new content - a combination of news from our Diocese and inspirational / thought-provoking articles and images from around the Web..
- And Rev. Jonathon has created a [St Paul's YouTube channel](#) where you will find pre-recorded services of Morning Prayer.
Just select a date and your preferred style of worship (BCP or BAS).
Both Sunday morning and mid-week services are available.
There is a permanent link to our YouTube channel on our Home page too (click on "Check out our YouTube channel").

A Message from Rev. Jonathon

New Ways of Connecting

The coronavirus pandemic has changed so many aspects of our daily lives.

Perhaps most noticeably it has changed the way that we connect with each other. We aren't able to gather together in person with our families, our friends, our neighbours, and our fellow church members. Many of us are missing the sense of connection and fellowship that comes from a face-to-face conversation or a social gathering. We have had to adapt to new ways of connecting over the telephone, on Zoom, or on social media.



One of the lessons I hope we have learned during this time is that while we are not able to meet each other in person, it does not mean that we are still there for each other, and that we can connect and support each other in different ways. This new weekly newsletter is one of the ways that our parish is attempting to stay connected with our members.

The readings for this coming Sunday, Ascension Sunday, provide a glimpse into how Jesus' first followers also had to adapt to new ways of connecting with Him once He ascended to the Father in heaven.

Jesus would no longer be physically present on earth in the lives of a only few people. But He was far from absent. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was and still is alive and active in our world and in the lives of every one of His followers. We no longer need a physical connection with Jesus because His Spirit lives inside each one of us - giving us life, guiding us, protecting us, and inspiring us.

This new way of connecting with His followers enabled Jesus to be present with more people and to be present with them all of the time. It was a different way of connecting than what His first followers were used to. But it enabled the church to grow and be present in all areas of the world, including in each of our lives. So even though that change was likely new and uncomfortable at first, it turned out to be a blessing.

My question for us this week is what blessings might God be trying to give us through the new ways we are connecting with each other during this time? I hope and pray that you will stay connected with Him and with each other.

Celebrating 40 years in Canada with the Tans

In 1980, St Paul's Almonte sponsored a young Cambodian couple who had met and married in a refugee camp to begin their new life together in Canada. On May 13 they celebrated 40 years in Canada and sent us this message:

It's incredible to think that tomorrow, May 13, marks 40 years since Huoy and I landed in Ottawa to start a new life in Canada.

We still remember Grace Brown and Ann Bird meeting us at the airport that day in 1980.

On this significant anniversary, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our sponsors St. Paul's Anglican Church, the ACW, and the many people of the parish and community who contributed to helping us be successful in this wonderful country.

We will be forever grateful!

Sincerely *Huoy and Try Tan*



A Thank you sign on the church lawn.

What's New?

Sunday Morning Virtual Coffee Hour: Let Rev Jonathon know by email (jonathonkouri@hotmail.com) if you would like to participate.

On Friday he'll send you an email with a link to the Zoom meeting with the meeting ID and password.

Click on the link on Sunday morning just before 11 a.m. to join in.

Music for the services: Good News! the Diocese has increased the number of people allowed in the church building from 3 to 5. This means that a few musicians will be able to participate and lead singing in Jonathon's pre-recorded services!

Be Still My Soul - Home edition: If you would like to receive an electronic version of this monthly meditative service, consisting of the text of readings and links to music in a PDF file, please [email the office](#).

READINGS

Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
on the Bible Gateway

This Sunday, May 24 (Easter 7)

- First reading : [Acts 1:6-14](#)
 - Psalm: [Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35](#)
 - Second reading: [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)
 - Gospel: [John 17:1-11](#)
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In Our Prayers This Week

Your prayers are requested for the current covid-19 outbreak
– for health care personnel, for researchers,

**for first-responders, for front-line workers,
for our vulnerable neighbours.**

In the World

Pray for all members of the Anglican Communion around the world; for the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, and all primates and bishops; for members of the Anglican Consultative Council.

In Canada

Bishop-Elect Shane Parker, Assisting Bishop Michael Bird, the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa.

In our Diocese

For John, our retiring Bishop, Michael, our Assisting Bishop and Shane Parker, our Bishop-elect.

For the Parish of Prescott-North Glengarry: Holy Trinity, Hawkesbury; St. John's, Vankleek Hill; St. Michael and All Angels, Maxville; the Parish of Grenville/Calumet; the Chapel at St. Paul's, Fenaghvale - The Reverend Claude Delorme, Interim Priest-in-Charge

For the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) and their groups and members throughout the Diocese.

For our mission partner Ottawa Inner City Ministries remembering the Rev. Ken MacLaren, the staff, volunteers and everyone to whom they minister.

In Our Community

We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being.

We remember leaders, staff and volunteers at Carebridge.

In Our Parish

We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other..

We ask God's comfort and healing for Lucy Poaps, Anne Wheatley, Bessie Exley, and Sally Gentry.

We give thanks for and pray God's blessing on our members .the Brydges Family, Wayne and Linda Burnette, Paul and Catherine Cadieux, Roger Menard and Sandra Cain, Kelsey Johnson and Ian Cameron, Sara Cardona and Sharon Crawford,

We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.

To contribute a brief news item to this newsletter, please email it to the office
BY TUESDAY at NOON.



Jay Sidebotham

<https://mcusercontent.com/7cf9d705b3be33875b0086747/images/63975278-9566-4380-8975-4d8d28246cfe.jpg>

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