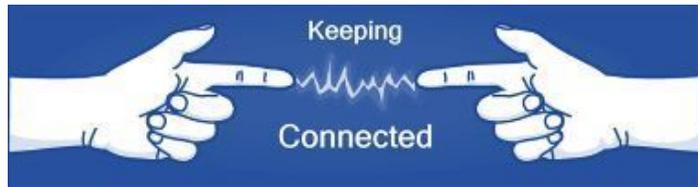


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For Sunday April 4 2021

Holy Week and Easter



See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)



Bells in Mississippi Mills will ring on Wednesday evening, March 31 at 6:15 p.m.

to honour the effects and impacts of the pandemic on our individual and community life.

The mayor, Christa Lowry says: "March 31st is a somber anniversary. This day marks one year since our Municipality's first death attributed to the Covid-19 virus. Over the past 12 months

we have experienced tremendous loss: loss of family members and friends, loss of businesses, loss of direction, loss of plans, loss of security. COVID-19 has required sacrifice that is more pervasive than what we see in the number of cases in the news.

While practicing social distancing has saved countless lives, it has also created intense feelings of isolation and loneliness. It is important to remain hopeful and remember we are not alone.

We encourage Mississippi Mills residents to use this anniversary to honour those lost while also remembering we are still in this together. While there is a long stretch ahead yet, there



is light at the end of the tunnel. There is hope and we can continue to be light for each other..."

You can read her entire letter [HERE](#).



HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Throughout the season of Lent, we have been preparing ourselves for Holy Week. The Palm Sunday service encompassed all of Holy Week. In it, we combine elements of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday into one unified liturgy. We journey together through the events of Holy Week in scripture and song, story and symbol.

The video of our Holy Week liturgy is available [HERE](#).

And you can participate using the Order of Service available on our web site [HERE](#).





Important Information on COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing

All adults age 70 and over in Lanark County are now eligible for vaccination.

Unfortunately as of this morning, Public Health reports that all available appointments are booked until May. However, your family doctor may be an avenue to an earlier appointment.

Health care workers can now sign up for a contingency list to fill last-minute vaccination appointments that become available IF they are able to travel to the Almonte General Hospital within 30 minutes of receiving a phone call. To sign up, please visit: healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/protection/contingency-list/

If you are over 75 AND have a mobility impairment and cannot go to a community vaccination site, **you may qualify for an in-home vaccination** to be given by the Lanark County Paramedic Service. This program is by referral only. If you think you qualify, please speak with your primary care provider or public health for more information and to obtain a referral.

If you think you need a **COVID-19 test**, Public Health advises taking the online self-assessment tool to determine if testing is recommended. This can be found at: [covid-](#)

19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/. Testing is conducted at the Almonte General Hospital. Testing is by appointment only, which can be booked by calling 613-325-1208, 7 days a week between 8:00a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

A Message from Rev. Jonathon Journeying Through Holy Week - Part 2

As Christians we are called to go on a spiritual journey through Holy Week, accompanying Jesus along the way. It could safely be described as a spiritual and emotional roller-coaster, filled with many highs, lows, unexpected turns, and abrupt starts and stops.



Anyone who has been an active member of a church for many years will be familiar with this journey. There are landmarks that we are given to situate ourselves within the journey - the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, Jesus' arrest and trial, the crucifixion, and of course the resurrection.

We know it is a difficult journey for us. Yet we are familiar the journey and know that there is going to be a good outcome. Imagine how much more difficult and shocking it must have been for Jesus' first disciples! Holy Week for them was not an annual tradition with familiar stories and symbols. They did not know how the journey would end.

Perhaps even more importantly, they were living the events first-hand. Holy Week was not something they were recreating from the relative comfort of their local church. They did not have the benefit of stepping outside the story. They could not stop reading or listening when things got difficult. They could not press "Pause" on a YouTube video of a re-enactment of the journey.

Jesus' first followers could not easily return to their everyday lives when things got a little too intense. Roman soldiers were not something that they read about in history books. The hostile religious authorities, the unpredictable crowds, and the ever-present Romans were a clear and present danger to their physical safety. Their lives were very much on the line simply by being associated with Jesus of Nazareth.

It is in this context that we can begin to understand the actions of those involved. Without the benefit of over two thousand years of tradition and theological explanation, we can begin to understand why some people questioned and misunderstood Jesus - including His own disciples. Without the benefit of hindsight, we can begin to understand how Jesus' disciples missed the obvious teaching about His upcoming death and resurrection. Without knowing the significance of the events, we can begin to understand why none of Jesus' disciples were able to stay

away and pray with Him the night before His crucifixion. After all, as far as they knew it was just another night, they thought they would have many other opportunities to pray, and they were tired.

We can even begin to understand the actions of Peter, who went from whole-heartily committing to following Jesus, only to publicly deny even knowing Jesus just a few hours later. Peter was afraid, Peter was under pressure, and Peter panicked. Most people don't make good decisions when they are under pressure and Peter was no exception.

Because of so many factors, we experience the journey of Holy Week very differently than the first participants did. We should remember this as we hear the story and are tempted to ask ourselves "What was wrong with these people? What were they thinking? Surely I wouldn't have acted like that." If we are honest with ourselves it is very likely that if we were going on the journey of Holy Week for the very first time, we would have made the exact same mistakes, and perhaps even bigger ones. Ultimately Holy Week teaches us that we are all human, and that we are all in need of God's love and mercy.



We Follow

by Michael Mavis

Because this world today revels in celebrity,
Obsessed with notoriety and fame,
Recklessly celebrating someone as famous,
And just as recklessly discarding them --
We follow Jesus as he rides in triumph.

Because we sense a fragility in our relationships,
We fear that friendship will end in betrayal;
And worry that those we rely on will falter,
And scatter when adversity strikes --
We follow Jesus into the Garden.

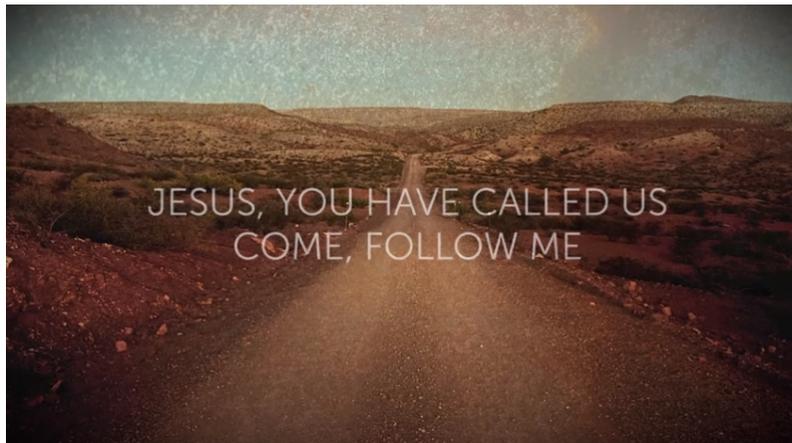
Because it sometimes seems that every good thing comes to ruin,
While nameless anxieties want to ensnare us,
Telling us that frailty and dissipation await us;
And because it seems easy to despair,

We follow Jesus to the cross.

But, because we have been given the Truth;
That each life is greater than the sum of its disappointments,
That no one is beyond healing and hope,
That we are each loved, and love-able, valuable and sacred,
Because we know that Love wins,
Not just ultimately...but now – always:
We follow Jesus...still...we follow Jesus.

Michael suggests listening to this song on the same theme:
Jesus You Have Called Us, by Joel Payne (Resound Worship)

Click on this picture to hear the song play on You Tube



Highlights Parish Council March meeting

Members discussed and agreed upon a set of guidelines for how Council will operate this year:

- Responsibility of chairing will rotate around Council members
- We will receive a financial report for the Treasurer quarterly
- Each Ministry Team Lead will provide an in-depth report on the activities and plans of that team once a year plus as needed mini reports throughout the year.
- The schedule for these reports will be finalized by the Corporation after discussion with the individual team leads.

We discussed the role of the Ministry Team Lead, an ongoing concern as we move ahead with the re-design of how Parish Council functions. The Team Leads on Council ensure that the activities, plans and concerns of the ministries they represent are brought to the attention of Council in a timely way. And to generally improve communication and cooperation between groups. The present composition of the Ministry Teams is:

- **Church Formation** (Lead, Wendy Shaw): Altar Guild, Be Still My Soul, Readers and Greeters, Music, Prayer Circle, Service Planning Group, Sunday morning technical support crew.

- **Individual Spiritual Development** (Lead, Sally Hortop): Bible and book studies, Centre for Creative Living, Centring Prayer, Education for Ministry program, Open Table.
- **In- and Out-reach** (Leads, Karen Masson – In-reach and Claire Marson – Outreach): church community celebrations, pastoral care, Almonte Food Cupboard, Community Christmas dinner, Harvest Supper, Pancake Supper Diocesan Community ministries, Synod, Mississippi Millis Liaison Committee, Mississippi Mills All My Relations.
- **Shine Our Light** (Lead, Deane Zeeman): communication tools – website, Facebook, *Keeping Connected*, community media liaison and fundraising – November tourtieres, annual pledging campaign, ad hoc fund raising activities.
- **Our Spaces** (Leads, Katrina Ayling and Eric Hammond): buildings and grounds, Community Cemetery (Cemetery Board chair: Michael Mavis)

A **Visioning Day** will be held in May (date still TBD) to generate ideas and to prioritize the issues and activities we will focus on as a community. Everyone in the Parish is invited. This event will of necessity be held online using Zoom. People are welcome to participate by telephone, as was successfully done at the annual Vestry meeting in February.

Student Painters will be around the property this spring finishing off work that wasn't completed last fall. The terraced garden beside the Rectory will be renovated by Al Goddard. We will be looking for donated plant material for that.

Good Friday and Easter Day Playlist

From Deane Zeeman

Click on the blue text to see and hear the songs play on YouTube.



Good Friday

[Behold, the Wood of the Cross](#): composed and sung by Dan Schutte

[Go to Dark Gethemane](#): sung by The NCrew

[Jesus Remember Me](#) (Taize)

[O Sacred Head, Surrounded](#): sung by the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles

[Sing My Tongue, the Glorious Battle](#): a translation by John Mason Neale of the sixth century Latin hymn by Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus plainsong, sung by the choir of Ely Cathedral.

[Were You There?](#): sung by Collin Raye

[What Wondrous Love is This](#): performed by Michael Lining

[When I Survey the Wondrous Cross](#): presented by TNBA (Northern Baptist Association).



Easter

[And Can It Be](#): *Songs of Praise* (BBC)

[Christ Arose](#): words and music by Robert Lowry

[Crown Him with Many Crowns](#) (Kingsway Music)

[Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise](#): performed by Maddy Prior and The Carnival Band

[Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#): *Songs of Praise* (BBC)

[Love Crucified Arose](#) – composed and performed by Michael Card

[The Strife is O'er](#) - The Episcopal Church Virtual Choir and Orchestra

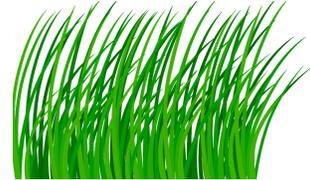
[Thine Be the Glory](#): *Songs of Praise* (BBC)

[This Joyful Eastertide](#): sung here by the Quarantine Choir.

Lawn Care Opportunity St. Paul's Community Cemetery is in need of someone to cut the grass at the Cemetery for the months of May and June 2021. You will need to supply your own equipment, but we are able to pay a modest amount per cutting.

If you are interested please contact

Michael Mavis 613-256-2431.



READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Easter Day

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

- **First reading:** [Acts 10:34-43](#)
 - **Psalm:** [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)
 - **Second reading:** [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)
 - **Gospel:** [John 20:1-18](#)
-



Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war, and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

In the World. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

In Canada. The Most Rev. Anne Germond, Metropolitan, and the people and clergy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario; the people and churches involved in the Bales-for-the-North program.

In our Diocese. The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop.

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 pray for or local hospice initiative, Home Hospice North Lanark - for their volunteers, staff and clients.

We pray for the health, safety and well-being of our neighbours in the face of increased numbers of covid-19 cases in our area and for everyone involved in the distribution of vaccines.

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

We ask for God's healing hand to cover our members who are struggling with health issues.

We pray for the grieving families of those among us who have recently lost loved ones.

We ask for God's blessing on our members Glen Brydges, Wayne and Linda Burnette, Paul and Catherine Cadieux, Roger Menard and Sandra Cain, Sara Cardona and Brenda Carter.

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



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