

ἄρτοὶ καὶ οἶνος

The Mustard Seed.

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A "Coronatide" Ordination

as written by the Editor, with photos by the Rev'd Chris Pilon

As you may remember, the Diocese was to come together on April 15th, 2020 to ordain the Rev'd Brennan McCurry to the sacred order of priest. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that ordination had to be postponed until it was once again safe to gather. Eventually, on July 22nd, 2020 (the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene) we were able to gather once again to ordain now-Father Brennan McCurry to the priesthood.

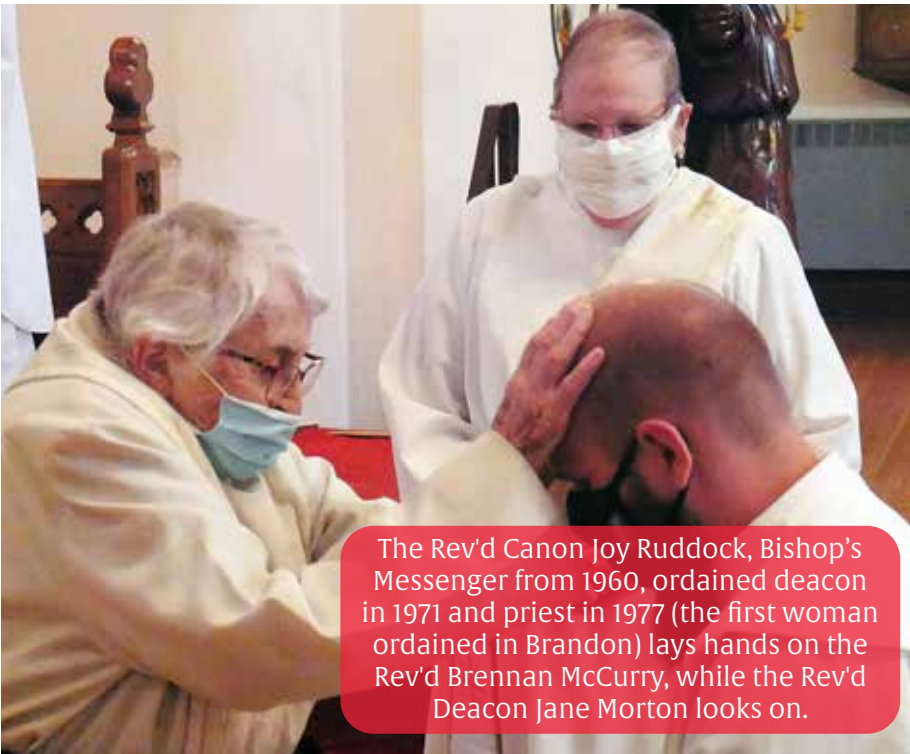
This was not your standard ordination, and frankly, nor should it have been. While at the time of the ordination, things were opening again, we were still learning how to live with this virus: we took a lot of precautions to keep us safe. People wore masks, used hand sanitizer, and kept their physical distance from each other as best they could.

Things that you would expect to happen at an ordination did happen, but in a muted way. There were no hymns sung by the congregation, but there was organ music to listen to at different points in the service. There was no "holy

huddle", where the priests, alongside the bishop, gather around to consecrate the ordinand, but each priest laid hands on the ordinand separately, one after another. There was no distribution of the Eucharist in both kinds, but those gathered were able to receive the fullness of Christ in the bread only.

Yet, even in the midst of all these changes, the Holy Spirit moved throughout the people present. I daresay that this will be an ordination that all who attended will remember for a long time to come. Congratulations, Father Brennan McCurry!

See below for some pictures of the service. In addition to the photos, there is also a video of the event on our Diocesan Facebook page (where you can also find more photos of the ordination in due course!)



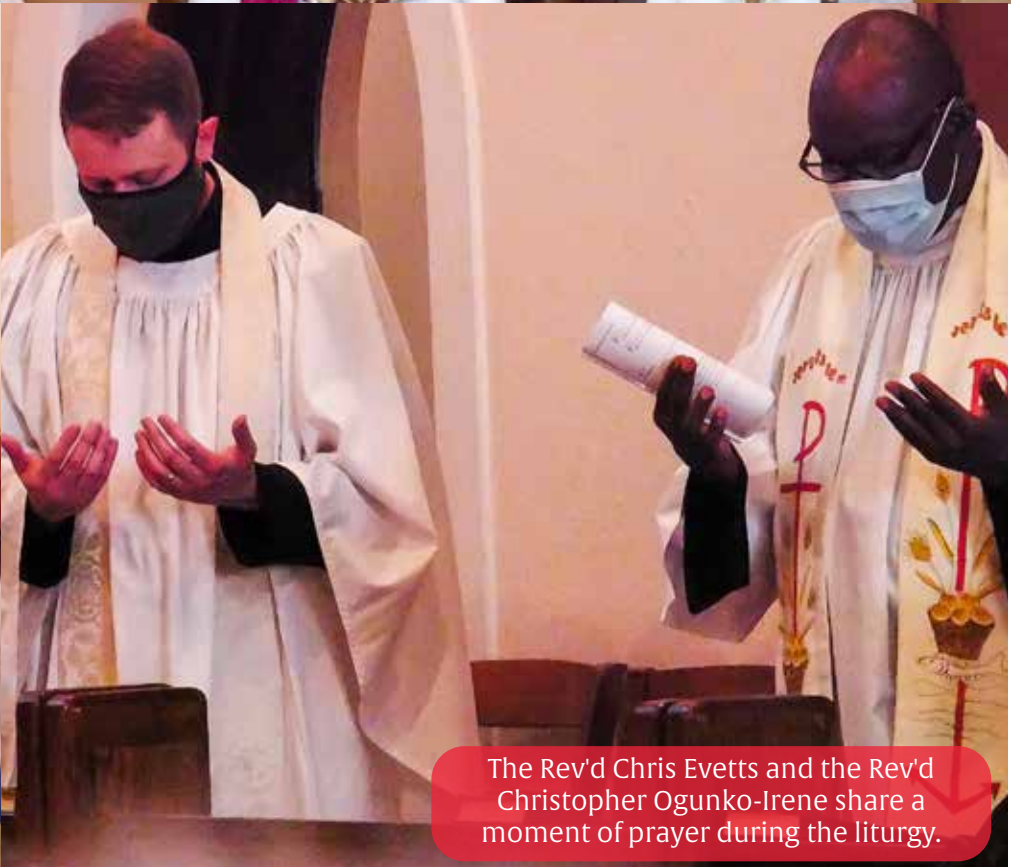
The Rev'd Canon Joy Ruddock, Bishop's Messenger from 1960, ordained deacon in 1971 and priest in 1977 (the first woman ordained in Brandon) lays hands on the Rev'd Brennan McCurry, while the Rev'd Deacon Jane Morton looks on.



The Bishop, assisted by the Rev'd Chad McCharles, leads the ordination litany.



The newly ordained priest is presented to the congregation.



The Rev'd Chris Evetts and the Rev'd Christopher Ogunko-Irene share a moment of prayer during the liturgy.

A Word From Our Bishop



*The Right Reverend
William G. Cliff
Bishop of Brandon*

By now we are all tired of the virus. We are tired of the changes, tired of the masks, tired of church not being like church. It is almost impossible to count the ways in which we are tired of the upending of our life together, never mind the upset we face in our jobs, our hobbies, our holidays and our hopes. Nothing is the same.

This is an apocalypse of sorts. Apocalypse doesn't mean "the end of the world" though to many that is what the word seems to mean. The Book of Revelation (the last book of the bible) was, and in some places still is, referred to as "the Apocalypse of St. John". But Apocalypse in this sense means an upheaval or crisis which unveils things which were previously hidden. Our society has been shaken and disturbed by the apocalypse of COVID-19. So many things have been revealed to us through this disease. The fragility of many industries, the unsustainabil-

ity of many of our attitudes and ways of doing business, and the simple vulnerability of the people among us who do some of the most important jobs in our society. All this and more has been revealed by the virus.

It has also been revealed that the people of the Diocese of Brandon have been continuing faithful to the charge of loving one another. Parishes have been making sure that, as they are able to open, they are sanitized and safe for people who are coming to worship. Still others are waiting until things are safer and watch faithfully the youtube celebrations and sermons that we share. Even in the midst of the floods and damage at the Cathedral centre that have left our diocesan offices dismantled and the restoration efforts carrying on we have been touched by the love and generosity of people across the Diocese and even across the country.

I am choosing to see the very best in us being revealed by the apocalypse of the virus. I am choosing not to rest in the frustration and anger at the upending of my many plans and hopes (though those frustrations are very real). I am instead placing my mind firmly in the place where I am marvelling at the love and concern that have been showed through this time of trouble. I am so very proud of the generosity and love that our church is showing to one another in care and concern.

We do not know what the fall holds for us, whether there will be a second

wave and we will all have to hunker down again, or whether we will reap the benefits of faithful observance of the public health orders and escape another round. But I do know that we are strong in prayer and love for one another and that we can rest strong in what the Lord has done and will continue to do in our midst. Use this time of apocalypse to reveal a deeper prayer life, a more faithful study of scripture and a more concentrated intention in loving your neighbour and heaping care upon them and concern for them all over. Let this love shine in you and shine out in your community and people will notice. The apocalypse will have revealed you to be faithful and full of love for Jesus because you saw him in your neighbour.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page! Search "The Diocese of Brandon" on Facebook, or go to <http://www.facebook.com/brandonanglicans>

You can find an electronic copy of the Mustard Seed there each month, as well as photos from recent events in the diocese.

Also, the Bishop was interviewed for the summer edition of the Anglican Journal, "Epiphanies", entitled "Planning & Change." Check it out at anglicanjournal.com!

The Mustard Seed

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Contributions to the expense of the paper are normally requested each March but donations are accepted anytime. Changes of address can be made through your parish or directly with the Anglican Journal. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop or of the editor.

Deadline for submissions: the first of the month. *Please note:* All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!



News from the Pews

ST. JAMES', RIVERS submitted by Kathy Roberts

As is the rest of the diocese, we at St. James have made changes to meet the guidelines for Covid 19. The church was closed for weeks and when we could finally hold services, special protocols were in place. Our first service was held outdoors in the yard at the home of George and Kathy Roberts. All brought their own lawn chairs and sanitized books were provided.

Since then, we have held services in the church, sanitizing at the door and social distancing in the pews. We all miss not being able to sing hymns. Before stages for opening became a reality, the Rev'd Sally Carter kept in touch, often visiting on the driveway.



ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL submitted by the Rev'd Dr. Paul Shore, Deacon Assistant

"Every time we get started working, God helps us out," gardener Betty Eastcott said with a smile. She was talking about the ongoing gardening project at St. Matthew's Cathedral, where the fullness of summer has produced a sunny mix of colors in the flower beds along the north wall and in the flower pots facing Thirteenth Street. Founded some years ago by Doreen Conlin as a tribute to her late husband Bishop John Conlin, our garden has returned each year to greet all who come to the Cathedral-- and this summer it is putting on an especially fine show. This year, the coronavirus has changed many things in our lives, but it has not interrupted our love and support for the garden. An eager team of gardeners has plunged into the work, and the results are at their peak right now. These photos show how traits of a "civilized" garden can be wed to something suggesting the less structured outdoors. There is more here than just splashes of vivid colour: we see the peaceful blending of different species,

the helpful visits of bees, the resolute streams of ants, the occasional bird, and hear the sounds that only plants that are gathered in one place can make. We also feel the sense of cool wetness after one of our team has just watered. Creation and recreation – in both senses of the word-- are celebrated, we are reminded to treasure the moment in which we are living, as the garden changes a little each day. The sidewalk pots are also doing well, providing brilliant and pastel contrast to the repetitive red brick of the Cathedral, as they remind us that inspiration can take place in a small space. And that hard work can bring rewards!

Editor's Note: See page 2 for photos of the Cathedral's garden.

NEEPAWA UNITED-ANGLICAN SHARED MINISTRY as written by the Editor

On July 1st, the people of St. James' Anglican, Neepawa and Neepawa United Church entered into a Shared Ministry agreement. A shared ministry agreement is an agreement between congregations from different denominations who would like to join together for worship and fellowship.

They will be sharing a full-time cleric - the Reverend Chad McCharles. He returns to the Diocese after having most recently served in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI as the Rector of Mahone Bay and for a time as the Executive Secretary of Synod. During his previous time in the Diocese of Brandon, he served as the Rector of the Prairie Mountain Parish (All Saints, Gladstone; St. James', Neepawa, St. John's, Bethany; St. John's, Kelwood; and St. Mark's, Minnedosa), St. George's, Brandon, and St. Paul's, Dauphin.

During July and August, joint services were held (with proper precautions) at St. James Anglican Church. At the time of writing, it was hoped that by September, they would be meeting for worship at Neepawa United Church, which will be the new home for the Shared Ministry.

Welcome back, Fr. Chad! We're thrilled that you're here.

A Note About Synod 2020

as written by Karen Webb,
Vice-Chancellor and Registrar

We are entering the season of the work of the government of the church. Fresh from the summer hiatus, in any year other than this one, we would prepare to meet. Except that this isn't any ordinary year, and we all know it. This article will try to describe how we will be dealing with governance in a year where we can't meet without masks or hug people we haven't seen for months.

This fall, the Synod of the Diocese of Brandon is scheduled to meet for three days in Brandon, starting October 22. We meet every three years, and these dates have been on the books since the last meeting. One of the things we must do is elect members from the diocese to attend the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, scheduled (as of printing) for April 30 - May 2, 2021.

The plan at this point is this: at the beginning of September, the Secretary of Synod, the Rev'd Fr. Matt Koovisk will canvass the synod delegates for nominations to Provincial Synod, General Synod, Executive Committee, as well as the Diocesan Court and Canons and Constitution Committee.

"This is the way we can ensure everyone's voice is heard, while at the same time, keeping one another safe."

- Bishop William Cliff

We will still need a nominator and a seconder for each nomination. Once we have the candidate list, it will be mailed to all members of Synod, with a self-addressed envelope, with instructions on how to vote. The deadline for mailing it back will be the end of the day before Synod convenes.

Then, on the first day of Synod, the executive officers will meet physically in Brandon and open the Synod. We will convene the synod delegates by telephone, call the roll and conduct two pieces of business. First, we will open and count the ballots and report the results of the election. Second, we will adjourn the Synod to a date when we can expect to gather. By doing it this way, we convene as we should, every three years; we make sure we have our delegates ready and we do as much as we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As Bishop William says, "This is the way we can ensure everyone's voice is heard, while at the same time, keeping one another safe."

Is it perfect? No. (Really, nothing's perfect but God, but that's a different discussion.) But it's the best we can do. No-one will ever forget 2020.



The Rev'd Chad McCharles blesses a truck after the July 19 service at Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry.



St. Paul's, Dauphin returns to public worship on July 5.



The Rev'd Jonathan Hoskin distributes communion at an outdoor service at St. George's in June 2020.



St. Mary, Virden's window to St. Cecelia taken in the evening light in July 2020.

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