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The Mustard Seed.

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The World of the New Testament

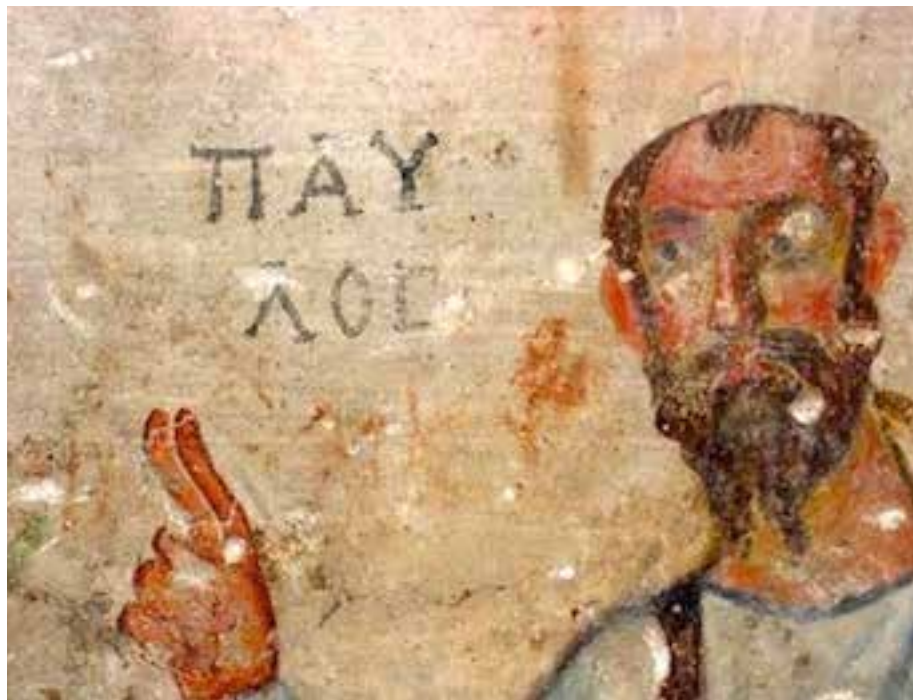
as written by the Rev'd Dr. Paul Shore
Deacon Assistant, St. Matthew's Cathedral

Starting on the evening of Tuesday, January 12, a new course will be offered in the L.Th. Program available to clergy and laity of the Diocese of Brandon. "The World of the New Testament" is not like any course that has been taught previously. It's a little taste of archaeology, a smidgen of ancient languages, a fair amount of social and political history, and a whole lot of New Testament.

The eight week, once a week course is for anyone desiring a deeper understanding of Scripture, whether the goal is to become a better preacher or expositor, to gain skill as the leader of Bible study, or just to feel more grounded in this all-important document. You can earn three course credits through the program the Diocese has with Huron College, but audits are welcome, too!

At the time of this writing, we hope to offer the course both "in person" at St. Matthew's and online, although of course we cannot predict the regulations regarding gatherings that may be in effect in January.

Some of the topics we shall cover include:



- Understanding more about the audiences for whom the books of the New Testament were written and how they might have responded to these texts (both read silently, sung, and proclaimed aloud).
- How women and children were regarded two thousand years ago, with special attention to the political and religious realities of the day, What did divorce mean in Jesus's day?

- We will take on the controversial Book of Revelation, looking at its poetic and visionary qualities, especially those related to the sky and heaven and to images found in the Old Testament. We'll have a few quick looks at how artists through the ages have envisioned this book.

- Who was St. Paul? What traditions and experiences shaped his writings? Paul the writer leaves nothing to chance, using cadence, word choice, and dense argumentation to provide a framework for his exposition of an enduring faith. We shall try to get inside this saint's brain!

The instructor will be the Rev'd Dr. Paul Shore, who is well known for not being able to stop talking about the history of the New Testament. *(Editor's note: he does not lie.)*

Please join us!



For Advent, St. James', Rivers put together home Advent wreaths. For more, see page 3.

Classes start soon!

The World of the New Testament

Instructor: The Reverend Paul Shore PH.D.

Dates: 8 Tuesdays from January 12 - February 23
Location: St. Matthew's Cathedral, Brandon
(or online, depending on public health guidelines)
Cost: \$300 for credit toward the L.Th. diploma of Huron University College.

Bursary assistance is available.

To Register: contact Deacon Cheryl at 204-727-2380 or admin@brandon.anglican.ca.



A Word From Our Bishop



The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff
Bishop of Brandon

turning a new page and taking stock and settling in for the worst of the Manitoba cold and bright and glorious sunshine. It also means dark approaches early and winter nights can be long. In fact, while we are celebrating Epiphany and all that the end of the Christmas season brings us at the beginning of January, I find myself living another kind of Advent...waiting for the calendar to turn, the sun to warm and the mystery of Lent and Easter to break into our hearts.

Rushing things? Maybe, maybe not. Ash Wednesday is only about 6 weeks away, depending on when you are reading this. It is, however, the cycle of Lent and Easter that gives meaning to all the other waiting: waiting for God to speak, waiting for the heart to forgive, waiting for the mind to understand, waiting for the cross to be carried to the top of the hill, waiting for the resurrection. We have a shorter Epiphany season to wait through. Ash Wednesday and the lenten fast begins the 17th of February - so perhaps this is a good lesson for people like me who have an uncomfortable relationship with time. I have some time to wait to start, but I cannot be idle while I wait.

There is another aspect of this waiting as well: waiting for a vaccine. We are all waiting for the day we get a call, or a piece of mail or a notice in the paper that says "your time for the vaccine is coming!" I can't spend the time between now and then simply waiting and doing nothing. I have to

somehow be active in my waiting, doing what I can, how I can to plan for the work and relationships that will follow what we have been through in 2020. Bring on 2021 and the vaccines!

Active waiting is the art of belonging to the present moment while having full hope of the promise of God which is to come. It really is a means of putting into practice the implications of the Incarnation of the Word. The birth in time of the timeless Son of God makes us wait actively; listening closely and discerning the will of God as we grow into Christ's own likeness. This is not the spiritual equivalent of the attempt to read in my squishy chair. God reaches out to us in the now. There is no other time in which we will encounter God - the past is past and the future is in God's hands, not ours. So we live, we wait, we love, we think, and we work for the kingdom now - all while patiently having confidence in the promise of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Happy New Year, and stay safe!

Have you noticed the way time has telescoped in this period of pandemic and intermittent lockdowns? It makes for an uncomfortable relationship with time. There have been several points in my life where I look back and realize the amount of time that has elapsed since a significant event and I shake my head in wonder. At other points in my life, time drags on at a pace akin to glaciers melting - like spending what seems a week in one afternoon. This spring I found myself measuring my truck's mileage in months per gallon. At other times, I find myself always looking for extra time, guarding my spare time and giving away time in ways that do not help me. The squishy chair in my living room and a good book beckon me in, but once I am lost in the chairs embrace, I wake with the book on my face, my glasses askew and well-rested, but no further ahead in my reading.

January, being "new-year", also has a number associations with it which leave me ambivalent. In joy, it means

The Mustard Seed

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The Mustard Seed is circulated ten times a year (from September to June), as a section of the Anglican Journal, to all supporting households in the Diocese of Brandon.

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!

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.

Synod 2020 Update

We had our elections at Synod, and the results are below. For more information, contact the Secretary of Synod:

General Synod (scheduled for July 14-17, 2022)

Clergy	Lay	Youth	Clergy Alternates	Lay Alternates
1. The Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk	1. Barry Nadolny	Charlie Chartrand, Jr.	1. The Rev'd Cheryl Kukurudz	To be announced
2. The Very Rev'd Don Bernhardt*	2. Freda Lepine*		2. The Ven. Michael Chartrand*	

Provincial Synod (scheduled for October 2021)

Clergy	Lay	Clergy Alternates	Lay Alternates
1. The Rev'd Chris Evetts	1. Freda Lepine*	1. The Ven. Michael Chartrand*	1. Anita d'Armada
2. The Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk	2. Laurence Sinclair*	2. The Rev'd Frances Stewart	2. Debra Chapman
3. The Very Rev'd Don Bernhardt*	3. Nadia Sinclair* (youth)		

Executive Committee

Clergy	Lay
1. The Rev'd Cheryl Kukurudz	1. Lyle McNichol
2. The Rev'd Chad McCharles	2. Deb Clevett
3. The Rev'd Flora Young*	3. Leon Morehouse
	4. Laurence Sinclair*

Diocesan Court

Clergy	Lay
The Rev'd Chris Evetts	Leon Morehouse
The Rev'd Jonathan Hoskin	
The Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk	
To be announced	

Canons & Constitution

Clergy
The Rev'd Chris Evetts

Lay

Leon Morehouse

The Bishop will be seeking to appoint further members to the Executive to ensure representation.

News from the Pews

ST. JAMES', RIVERS

photo and text submitted by Kathy Roberts

Once again St. James like all churches, is unable to hold services. The Rev'd Sally Carter is providing Sunday services via email, with the appropriate readings and sermon. Visits are made by telephone. As Advent neared, the Rev'd Sally Carter suggested that we make our own Advent wreaths at home, using whatever was available.

If the proper coloured candles were not handy, we should substitute.

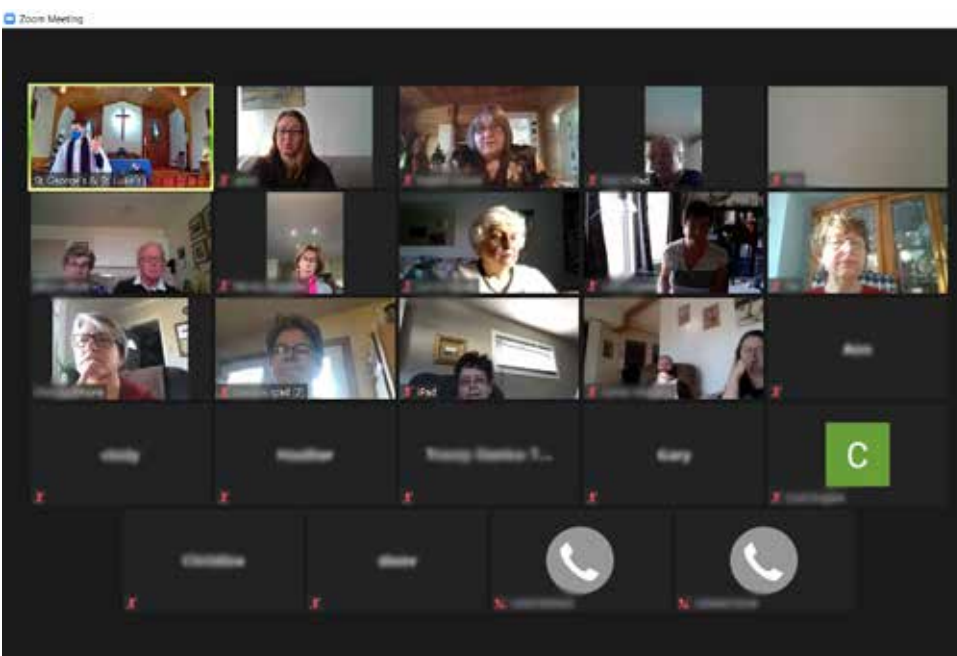


ST. GEORGE'S, BRANDON & ST. LUKE'S, SOURIS

submitted by Janet English

In these times of pandemic, St. George's, Brandon and St. Luke's, Souris have been using these times to worship together on Zoom (see top

picture.) St. George's has also been using this platform to have their vestry meetings (as evidenced by the bottom photo!)



ST. PETER & ST. JAMES, FLIN FLON

submitted by Shelley Andres

It is with saddens that we share the passing of our dear friend Jean Hyska. Jean was a member of St. Peter's Anglican Church and then later, St. Peter & St. James Anglican Church. Jean's journey of service was strong and her support for her church grew over the years beginning with helping both ladies groups, Circle C and ACW, with suppers and teas, bake sales and whatever other function the church worked on.

A most memorable outreach project that Jean helped create and organize was the "Memory Ice Candles". This outreach project touched and lifted so many people in ours and the surrounding communities. After this Jean organized the "Pie-Making" project which saw many pies being made and sold in the local businesses and enjoyed by so many in the community.



ST. MARY'S, VIRDEN

submitted by the Editor (aka: the Rector)

Normally, the town of Virden's Remembrance Day service is in the Aud Theatre, which is the biggest auditorium space in Virden. It is normally packed with community members. The Bishop spoke at this service in 2016. This year, though, the service

happened with the president of the Legion and the two chaplains (which includes Fr. Matt) at St. Mary's. It was livestreamed to Facebook, where over 1,000 people viewed it! The photo below is the altar of St. Mary's following the service.



Another Pandemic Ordination!

Text by the Editor

Photos by Karen Webb (Vice-Chancellor & Registrar) & the Editor

On November 11th, 10 people gathered at St. Matthew's Cathedral to ordain the Rev'd Jann Brooks to the priesthood. Much like the Rev'd Brennan McCurry's ordination in July, lots of things that would normally be present were again present in a muted way. Hymns made way for organ music, laying on of hands was done separately by the priests present, not in one "holy huddle", and Communion was given in one kind instead.

Below are some photos of the occasion. There is a video of the service, which you can find on the Diocesan Facebook page. While there were far less people than there normally would be, the Holy Spirit still moved throughout every participant in the service.

Congratulations to the Rev'd Jann Brooks! May God continue to bless you in your ordained ministry.



The Rev'd Matt Koovisk and the Rev'd Jann Brooks were classmates at Trinity College, Toronto, where Fr. Matt did his Master of Theology degree, and Rev'd Jann is completing her Master of Divinity degree.



The clergy in attendance (with the newly ordained priest.)



The Bishop and the new priest celebrate the Eucharist together.



The Bishop presents the Rev'd Jann Brooks with a chalice and paten, symbols of her priestly office.



The view of the service from the sanctuary.



The newly ordained priest is presented to the congregation.

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The Bishop lays hands on the Rev'd Jann Brooks to ordain her a priest.



The Dean (the Very Rev'd Don Bernhardt TSSF) lays hands on the Rev'd Jann Brooks.