



## A Word From Our Bishop



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

St. John Chrysostom was challenging the people to understand that the inward disciplines of fasting, prayer and sacrifice that we might undertake as a worthy offering to God through Lent made no difference if they did not improve the lot of others. The spiritual effects of our practices had to work inwardly on our Spirits; but the temporal, or worldly aspects of our spiritual disciplines had to have an effect outwardly - away from us - in the lives of those who surround us, or they were not the sacrifices that we thought they were.

This is the second Lent we have been through with the scourge of a pandemic running about the world, but this time, we are waiting for vaccines. As Lent carries on before us, we might consider honouring St. John Chrysostom's advice by looking at our own disciplines this time around, keeping in mind the restrictions and limitations laid on each of us by pandemic precautions and social-distancing rules. What sacrifices and disciplines can you offer to God that will have an inward benefit and an outward effect?

I am thinking in particular of the gifts we need to be kind and generous with one another. What studies of scripture, what acts of loving service, what manner of contact with others can we engage in that will honour the greater sacrifice of Christ in light of his command to us to "Love one another"? Perhaps a meal cooked and shared with someone who is alone - left on

a doorstep as a sign of kindness and connection; a regular phone call with those who find themselves cut off from their family and loved ones by restrictions; sharing a bible study over the phone; a simple prayer. These are the simplest of ways that we can demonstrate to one another that our inner disciplines have an effect outwardly in the world and that our hearts are seeking the one who loved us first.

This Lent, even in the midst of these difficulties, we are looking for a deepening of our lives in Christ and transformation in our relationships to look like the love of the reconciling love of Jesus. We need to work on our hearts, but at the same time, may that work send ripples of love and compassion into the world that Jesus loved and for which he died.

What are we to make of Lent? Traditionally, Lent is a time of self-examination, reflection, study, fasting and alms-giving. It is the time in the church year when we prepare for the great feast of Easter by offering to God our discipline, the choices we make to rule our hearts, our minds and our bodies for the purposes of the Kingdom. One of my favourite quotes about Lent is from St. John Chrysostom, the author of the prayer we use at the end of many litanies and prayers at morning and evening prayer. (Almighty God who hast given us grace at this time with one accord.... BCP pg 15). St. John Chrysostom was trying to get through to people that their Lenten practices needs to be focussed inward in discipline, but outward in action. He wrote:

*"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."*

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.

## In Memoriam: Maria Jane Highway M.Div. (1955-2021)



Maria Jane on the day that she graduated with her diploma in theology from Henry Budd College.

text by the Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk  
Coordinator, Henry Budd College for Ministry

Maria Jane was a strong woman with a quick mind who served God and the church for many years. She ministered with her late husband, the Rev'd Douglas Highway, and she served on various committees at both the Diocesan and National levels, including Faith, Worship, and Ministry. She travelled to England in 2005 as a presenting member of the Canadian delegation of the Anglican Consultative Committee.

Maria Jane was always learning, graduating from Henry Budd College in 2015 with her Diploma, and then completing her Masters of Divinity through the Indigenous Studies Program at the Vancouver School of Theology in 2018, after 18 years of study! In her later years, Maria Jane struggled with a number of health issues, but continued to learn and teach, most recently offering translations for Cree Hymns. She was always curious and willing to wrestle with ideas and voice her opinions.

Maria Jane will be remembered at Henry Budd College as a tenacious life-long learner and a Cree language and culture knowledge keeper and she will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*Rest eternal grant unto Maria Jane, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.  
May her soul, along with all the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

### The Mustard Seed

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The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff  
7th Bishop of Brandon

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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!

# News from the Pews

## ST. MARY'S, BRANDON

photos and text submitted by Sharon and David Vail

Before the lock-downs, the Sunday School at St. Mary's Brandon was working towards a play to reenact the Easter story and made some props. Our six to eight kids were enthusiastic last we saw them and we are hopeful to continue when we can get

together again. Part of the artwork we produced contained a crucifixion scene with the kids profiles all looking on, signifying our strong personal connection with what Jesus has done for us.



## CHRIST CHURCH, RUSSELL (AND THE PELLY PLAINS PARISH)

text submitted by Virginia Beeleart, screenshot by the Editor

As well as Sunday services on Zoom for his own parish, the Rev'd Chris Pilon has celebrated the Eucharist, which was put on YouTube with Bethany and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Russell.

In other news, the Rev'd Lorraine Bonnell introduced a Prayer Group in January for the wider Pelly Plains Parish. The group, which meets on Zoom is committed to weekly meetings of about an hour.



## HENRY BUDD COLLEGE FOR MINISTRY

shared from their Facebook page

The Ven. Lydia Constant is incredibly active within the Opaskwayak Cree Nation in addition to her life as an Elder and Sessional Instructor at Henry Budd College.

Below is a photo of Archdeacon Lydia getting her COVID-19 vaccine. She seems to be smiling with joy under her mask!

Photo Credit:  
Opaskwayak Ininev/Facebook



## ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL, BRANDON

from their Facebook page (and the Brandon Sun)

A group affiliated with the Cathedral asked local bakers to donate baking in hopes of lifting people's spirits in the midst of the pandemic.

Allison Done, one of the wardens, came up with this idea of collecting

baked goods at the church to distribute to those in the community that were suffering during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo Credit:  
Kyle Darbyson/Brandon Sun



## In Memoriam: the Reverend Deacon Caroline Chartrand (nee Starr) (1957-2021)

with text from her published obituary, and photos from the Bishop



Caroline with other members of the Brandon delegation to Sacred Circle 2019.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our sister, wife, mother, grandmother, auntie, chapan, niece, auntie, cousin, godmother, mother-in-law, deacon, and friend on January 15, 2021.

Caroline was born December 16, 1957 and raised in Cedar Lake, until she moved to Easterville in 1964, where she lived until her death. Caroline was united in marriage to Michael Chartrand on November 24, 1976.

On December 7, 2019, Caroline was ordained a deacon in The Pas along with her cousin (brother) Cameron Buck. She loved Cameron dearly and always encouraged him to never give up his ministry.

Caroline was the chairperson for the ACW at St. Alban's, Easterville, and was also a health board member. She loved travelling to various communities for gospel jamborees, wake services, and also sharing Cree hymns for grieving families. It didn't matter which family it was, Caroline was always there with her husband and family. Caroline loved reading her Bible each day, and always had faith when it came to travelling with her husband and family. She encouraged everybody to follow the right path, especially her grandchildren, sisters, nieces and nephews. Caroline also loved taking family vacations with her sisters and brothers-in-law whom she had a special bond with. She would visit her sister daily. She loved to watch her family square dance, and play baseball and hockey. When the family travelled, it would always be with more than one vehicle, since she had lots of close relatives and friends to mention.

Deacon Caroline leaves to mourn her **husband**, the Ven. Michael Chartrand; **children** Carlie (Shawna) Chartrand, Christina (Derek) Queskekapow, and Ramona (Joseph) Sinclair; **sisters** Jane Lavallee, Carol (Simon) Patchinose, and Bernice (Alvin) Lavallee; **little brother** Harvey (Alvina) Thomas; little sister Arvel (Derek) Lavallee; **grandchildren** Wendell, Charlize, Charlie Jr., Isaac, Ezra, Kelton, Klanya, Shanelle, Norma, Kaylin, Miriam, Skye, Blake, Raven, Nadia, Ciera, Janene, Joseph Jr., Raleigh, Joselynn, Oliver, Olivia, Thomas; **chapans** Ivy, Kennadi, Brilyn, Thomas; **nieces and nephews** Donna, Mrtyle, Hubert, Angus, Gregory, Florence, Pamela, Simonis, Matilda, Garth, Jessica, Adrele, Bundy, Shawnda, Fiona, Yvette, Timo, Albert; **aunties** Louise McKay, Mable Cooper; **brothers-in-law** Joe (Ethel) Chartrand, Colin Lavallee; **sister-in-law** Rachel (Gunner) Einarson; **special friends** Sally Bourassa, Velma Sinclair, Solomon McNabb, Riderick Bignell, Don and Annabella Campbell, Hazel Martin, Marliyn Mercredi, the Reverend Stella Ledoux, Carol Chambers, the Reverend Cheryl Kukurudz; **adopted children** Thomas Mink and Loretta Patchinose; in-laws Garry and Margaret Saunders and Lorne and Pau-

line Balfour; **godchildren** Kirsten Mink, Theodore Sinclair, the late Peter Lewis Thomas, Matilda North, Shawnda Lavallee, the late Hubert Thomas Jr., Lar-risa Walker, Michael Walker, Curtis George, Jessica Bercier, Mathew Thomas, Frank Buck, Duncan Captain, Colin Ewen, Deacon Beardy, Wilfred Munroe, and Joshua Ledoux.

Deacon Caroline is pre-deceased by **mother** Matilda Starr-Thomas, **father** Charlie Starr; **step-father** Albert Thomas; **grandfathers** Alex Buck and Angus Martin; **grandmother** Katherine Martin-Buck, **aunties and uncles** Camelia and Charlie Mercedi, Batpiste and Cecilia Buck, Walter Buck, Huber Buck, Jacob Starr, Flora Starr, John Cooper; **sisters** Ruby Thomas, Flora Thomas, Elise Starr; **brother** Gilly Starr; **mother and father in law** Marietta and George Chartrand; **brothers-in-law** Harvey Chartrand, Robert Cook and Wilfred Cook; **sisters-in-law** Mary Helen Chartrand and Gladys Cook; **daughter** Jolene Chartrand; **grandson** Thomas Sinclair, Kelly Thomas, Hubert Thomas, Jr.; **nephews** Gerald Thomas and Conrad Thomas, Jr.; **niece** Noreen Mink; **cousins** Alex Buck, Johnny Mercredit, grandchild Infant Chartrand, **Chapans** 2-infants Queskekapow. If anyone was missed, it was not intentional!

The wake took place on January 23 and 24 at the Chartrand home, and the funeral service took place on January 25, with the Reverend Stella Ledoux and the Reverend Cameron Buck officiating. Deacon Caroline was laid to rest that same day in the Easterville Community Cemetery.

*Rest eternal grant unto Caroline, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.  
May her soul, along with all the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



Caroline with some members of her family.



Caroline visiting with people at the 2019 Evangelism Conference.

## Classes start soon!

### The History of the Church Reformation

*Instructor:* The Right Reverend William G. Cliff M.A., D.D.

*Dates:* Tuesdays from March 16th to April 20th from 7pm to 9pm

*Location:* St. Matthew's Cathedral, Brandon (or online)

*Cost:* \$325 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.



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<http://www.brockiedonovan.com>