



Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
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Listening sessions on reparations coming up this spring

The 2021 Diocesan Convention resolution "[Charting the Long Road Towards Reparations](#)" calls on the diocese to commit 2022 as a year of study, gathering and sharing stories and discernment. To help begin this process, the Reparations Subcommittee of the Racial Justice Commission is organizing a series of **regional "Reparations Listening Gatherings" to take place beginning in late April** via Zoom. These gatherings will be designed to create space for listening to all throughout the diocese as they share their thoughts and feelings regarding reparations. More information will be forthcoming.

"Practicing Truth" & "What is Truth?": Lenten preaching & study series go side by side

This year's "**Practicing Truth**" **Lenten Preaching Series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston** will run alongside the "[What is Truth?](#)" **Lenten study series** offered this year by the Racial Justice Commission. Join one another at the cathedral at *12:15 p.m. on Thursdays in Lent, March 3-April 7*, to hear the sermon in person and stay for a light lunch and conversation with the preacher, or join by livestream through the [cathedral's website](#). No registration is necessary. Find the schedule of preachers [here](#).

For those offering the Racial Justice Commission's "What is Truth?" series: Each sermon will be posted on the cathedral's website by 5 p.m. on the day after it is delivered, so it is available for study groups to access.

Sign-up still open to join Holy Land pilgrimage in October

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria for "Encounters in the Holy Land," a **mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, Oct. 17-28**. **The deadline for registering is April 1**. Find more details [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).

Diaconate Sunday is June 12

On *Sunday, June 12*, the Diocese of Massachusetts will again celebrate "**Diaconate Sunday**." Congregations are invited to request a deacon to preach on June 12, when the church celebrates St. Efreem the Syrian, a deacon venerated in both Eastern and Western church traditions. This is an opportunity to introduce more congregations to the life and work of deacons. To request a deacon for June 12, contact the Ven. Pat Zifcak, Archdeacon for Formation, at pzifcak@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 551. Because there are more congregations than deacons, requests should be made as soon as possible before May 1.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Ash Wednesday, March 2 with the bishops at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston:** Services at 12 and 6 p.m. Find more details [here](#) and at www.stpaulboston.org.

- **“Every Vote Counts” advocacy learning opportunity:** The diocesan Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries has been working with the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations to energize committed leaders of faith and other concerned individuals to learn what they can do to make sure everyone who is eligible is able to cast their vote.

A virtual presentation to learn more is open to all on *Friday, March 4 at 2 p.m.* Register for the Zoom link [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- The Racial Justice Commission’s Subcommittee on BIPOC Support will host a Zoom gathering on *Tuesday, March 8, 7-8:30 p.m., for those who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color, to continue to build community and support.* Read more [here](#), and register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

FOR INFORMATION: Claudette Hunt (claudettehunt@aol.com) or The Rev. Diane Wong (dianeckwong@gmail.com).

- **“Preaching Hope in a Climate Crisis” with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas and Jim Antal:** This ecumenical event is open at no charge to all preachers, and will take place on *Tuesday, March 15, 10-11 a.m.* via Zoom. The session will touch upon a few lectionary readings for Lent, and there will be opportunities for questions and discussion. [Register here.](#)

- **“Reconciliation: Putting a Burden Down,” an online Lenten Quiet Day** via Zoom, is sponsored by both Massachusetts Episcopal dioceses and open to all: *Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.-noon.* Through brief presentations, conversation, silent prayer and guided meditation, this retreat will give space to explore and to pray about the places where God may be inviting us to let go our burdens of resentment, guilt or shame. Find details and registration [here](#).

- **Update on spring youth retreats:** Registration is now open for “The Human in All of Us,” **a day-long event for middle and high school students and their mentors** on *Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.* at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. There will be workshops on wellness, small-group time, speakers and an invitation to participate in a service project to support unhoused people. Find information and the link to register [here](#).

As organizers monitor COVID trends and assess their own capabilities, details and registration will be forthcoming for the **Pre-Confirmation Retreat**, now on the calendar for *Saturday, April 2.* FOR INFORMATION: Eva Dalzell, lead organizer for the Diocesan Youth Council (eva.dalzell@gmail.com).

- **Sermon videos available to congregations:** The bishops and designated diocesan staff members will be self-recording video sermons for use by congregations in their online worship offerings for *Sundays, March 6 through May 22* (excluding Easter Day). These are intended as a gift of support to clergy and congregations.

The plan calls for sermons to be available mid-week prior to each assigned Sunday, for download via [this link](#), where the rota is also posted, or for viewing at www.youtube.com/ediomass.

- The clergy of the diocese are invited to a service of **Renewal of Ordination Vows and Blessing of Chrism** on *Holy Tuesday, April 12*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

The bishops will lead the same service at two times, *noon and 5:30 p.m.*, to accommodate varying clergy schedules. The 5:30 p.m. service will be livestreamed at www.stpaulboston.org.

Boxed meals are available for order for \$10 as part of the registration process, for those who would like to stay following. Advance registration is required, [here](#), to ensure good planning for observing whatever diocesan COVID-19 protocols are in place in early April.

- Due to the downward trend in key COVID indicators, physical distancing restrictions have been lifted on in-person participation at this year's diocesan **Clergy Conference**, to be held *Monday, April 25-Wednesday, April 27* at the Babson Executive Conference Center in Wellesley. **Registration is open, [here](#), for virtual, overnight and commuter participation.** (Please visit the registration site to review COVID protocols and requirements for in-person participation.) Registration for overnight and commuter attendance closes on *Friday, March 25*. Registration to attend virtually closes on *Monday, April 18*.

Should conditions change, capacity adjustments may be necessary to reinstitute physical distancing. Registrants will be notified, and those who registered earliest for in-person participation will be given priority. Refunds for the fee difference will be issued to others. Changes to existing registrations will be accepted until noon on *Friday, April 15*. E-mail questions to CPDC@diomass.org.

- **New clergy colleague group forming:** If you are a clergy person who would like to gather with colleagues once a month or so for prayer and spiritual nurture, please contact regional canon Martha Hubbard (mhubbard@diomass.org), and she will coordinate putting such a colleague group together and getting it launched.

- **Clergy Professional Development Days** in 2022 comprise a workshop on microaggression, provided by the diocesan Racial Justice Commission, and a separate Safe Church review segment, with each offered four times between March and September. Find the schedule, Zoom or in-person location details and the registration link [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **New 2022 stewardship resources are here:** “More than Enough” is the theme of the new TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) resources for 2022. Reflecting on the story of Elijah meeting the widow of Zarephaph, the new theme invites us to see abundance all around us. An increasing number of congregations are using TENS themes and resources to structure their annual pledge campaigns and are reporting success. The diocese pays for a membership for all its worshipping communities to use if they choose. The TENS resources are also useful for year-round stewardship and planned giving.

The TENS resources can be found at www.tens.org, and the 2022 password is Luke9:17.

FOR INFORMATION about TENS, planned giving, stock gifts or congregational campaigns: Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development (baustinspooner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

- The monthly online **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders** continues on the *fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.* Interim diocesan CFO Cynthia Hallenbeck invites clergy, wardens and treasurers to gather with her for this regular opportunity to share information on finance-related matters. At the upcoming *March 22* forum, the group will be discussing diocesan grants and the grant-making process, as well as other grant opportunities. Register [here](#) for the Zoom link.

FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO (challenbeck@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).

- **Recordings of the Congregational Consultants’ series of Zoom seminars** on the practical aspects of congregational leadership are available for replay [here](#). Seminars have been held on a variety of topics: annual meetings, audits, clergy compensation, congregational budgets, congregational collaboration, investments, Parochial Reports (financial and non-financial reporting), vestry roles and responsibilities, “What Every Treasurer Should Know” and year-end financial matters.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants coordinator (chris@centrestent.com).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Episcopal Church’s annual **Good Friday Offering** this year is celebrating a century of Episcopalians sharing their love, compassion and financial gifts to support the ministry of the Anglican Communion Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Follow along with weekly posts telling the history of the Good Friday Offering, [here](#), and find resources for use in congregations, including a litany, bulletin covers and posters, [here](#).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- An updated document for 2022 **summarizing diocesan grant and loan programs** is available [here](#). Many accept applications on a rolling basis; programs with upcoming deadlines for letters of intent or applications include [Congregational Development Grants](#) and [Sustainable Development Grants](#) (in March) and [Mission Tithe Relationship Grants](#) (in April).

Recipients of a 2021 deanery House of Mercy or Sending Serving Grant need to submit a brief year-end report on their ministries, required before they are eligible to receive deanery grant funds in subsequent years. Recipients should use this opportunity to showcase their project and good stewardship of funds. The report form is available [here](#) and is due by *Oct. 1*.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant for Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 421).

- The diocesan budget for 2022 sets aside \$44,397 for initial **funding for new mission initiatives**. The Mission Initiatives Committee of Diocesan Council is responsible for making recommendations regarding congregations, programs and chaplaincies that receive this funding and invites applications by *May 1*. Find application details at www.diomass.org/mission-initiatives-grants. Please note that priority will be given to under-resourced congregations and newly initiated programs for funding during this budget year.

- **Clergy children scholarship grants:** Children of clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for scholarship grants for undergraduate degree programs.

The application deadline is *Monday, May 9*. The 2022 application materials are on the diocesan website [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gates (lsimons@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Feb. 17 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Received the diocesan audit report.

Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about outstanding Parochial Reports and assessment payments.

Voted to approve 2022 assessment adjustments for St. Paul's Church in Dedham, in the amount of \$3,600, and Christ Church (Old North) in Boston, in the amount of \$10,000.

Heard a report from the missionary for networking and formation, Martha Gardner.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 17, 6-8:30 p.m., via Zoom.*

FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Assistant for Governance and Administration (csmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 406).

**CLERGY SEARCH &
CALL REPORT:**
Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Lynn Campbell concluded her ministry as rector of St. Peter's Church in Weston on Feb. 6.
The Rev. Ed Cardoza concluded his ministry as rector of St. Mark's Church in Foxborough on Jan. 31.
The Rev. Brett Johnson began as bridge priest at St. Peter's Church in Beverly on Jan. 24.
The Rev. George Stevens completed his ministry as vicar of St. John's Church in Beverly Farms on Feb. 27, and began as interim priest at St. Peter's Church in Weston on March 1.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church
CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church
MEDFIELD, Church of the Advent
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

WESTWOOD, St. John's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

MEDWAY, Christ Church, *part-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church, *part-time*

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

BEVERLY, St. Peter's Church
HUDSON, St. Luke's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

GLOUCESTER, St. John's Church
GROVELAND, St. James's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

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*Continued from page 6***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*
METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church (updated to half-time)**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*
*None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**[LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church:](#)

Curate/Assistant Rector

[WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany:](#) Associate Rector**Southern Region**Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church

PROVINCETOWN, Church of St. Mary of the Harbor

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

HOLBROOK, St. John's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:*None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church](#) *half-time*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) *half-time*[ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit](#) *full-time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*FOXBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church *part-time***NEXT fyi:***fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the April issue is **Wednesday, March 30 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.