



Wednesday, July 3, 2024

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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**New litany offered
to mark 50th year of
women's ordination as
priests**

The bishops have called upon the congregations of the diocese to commemorate the 50th anniversary of women's ordination in The Episcopal Church this July. "It was a singular moment of transformation in our life together in the Body of Christ," they write.

A new litany composed by Bishop Carol Gallagher for the occasion is available, as well as other resources for individual and congregational observance and learning. Read more [here](#).

**Consents are in & prep
underway for Bishop-
elect Whitworth's
consecration**

Sign up to volunteer [here](#).

The Office of the Presiding Bishop notified the wider church on June 27 that the election of the Rev. Julia E. Whitworth as the diocese's next bishop had received the required majority of consents from diocesan standing committees and bishops exercising jurisdiction in The Episcopal Church. Read the announcement [here](#).

Preparations are now underway for Bishop-elect Whitworth's ordination and consecration service, to take place on *Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m.* at Trinity Church in Boston. She will be seated as the 17th bishop diocesan of the Diocese of Massachusetts the following day, *Sunday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

More details about the consecration service—including seating, livestreaming and regional watch parties—will be announced as the date approaches. Meanwhile, volunteers will be needed throughout the consecration weekend, ranging from choir members, acolytes, crucifers, liturgical ministers, procession marshals, greeters, ushers, hospitality and watch party hosts and more. Anyone who is interested is invited to sign up to be considered for available roles. The online volunteer sign-up form is available at www.diomass.org/consecration. Questions may be directed to the Consecration Committee at consecration@mabishopsearch.org.

**Save Oct. 6 for
celebration of
Bishop Alan Gates &
Tricia Harvey**

All are invited to come together in celebration and gratitude for Bishop Alan Gates and Tricia Harvey and 10 years of episcopal ministry, as Bishop Gates prepares to retire this fall.

A family-friendly celebration and reception is being planned for *Sunday, Oct. 6, 12-4 p.m.*, at the New England Aquarium in Boston. Everyone in the diocesan community is welcome to come for all or part of the afternoon, with aquarium admission included.

RSVP online by Sept. 20 [here](#), and help share the invitation. A flier and publicity graphic are available for download and sharing with congregations and communities at www.diomass.org/celebrate-bishop-gates.

Registration opens soon for annual Diocesan Convention

Online registration will open soon for Diocesan Convention, to take place on *Saturday, Nov. 9* at the Marriott Boston Quincy hotel in Quincy. This year's theme is "One Body in Christ, Members One of Another: Reconciliation and Belonging in an Age of Division." Early registration is encouraged.

The deadline for submitting all materials will be Friday, Sept. 6, including nomination forms for elected positions, resolution submission forms and written reports. Find details and deadlines at www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2024.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **"Why Pray?":** [The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer](#) each summer hosts an in-person day to tackle a "big question" and this year asks: "Why Pray?" All are invited and welcome to explore this important question together. The day will include teaching, conversation, reflection and, of course, prayer. All participants will leave with materials to bring back to their congregation, to continue the conversation and learning.

"Why Pray?" will be hosted at St. Paul's Church in Newburyport, St. Thomas's Church in Taunton and the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston on *Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.* Participants may register to join at whichever location they wish. Find more details and sign up at www.stpaulboston.org/why-pray.

- The 2024 edition of "**Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes**" is now available. Created in 2022 and first published for the dioceses of Western Massachusetts and Massachusetts, the liturgical guide has expanded this year to include a new Daily Office guide for lay-led services and expanded and diversified readings, among other additions and improvements. As of June 20, the guide had been authorized for use in 42 dioceses—including Massachusetts—during this year's Season of Creation, *Sept. 1-Oct. 4*. It is available for review and download at <https://newcreationliturgies.org/season>.

- This year's stewardship campaign theme from [TENS \(The Episcopal Network for Stewardship\)](#) is "Walk in Love / Anden en amor." The diocesan membership allows congregations **free access to TENS stewardship campaign materials**, including reflections, a timeline for campaign implementation, artwork, pledge cards and more. Access the campaign resources via www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/walk-in-love-2024; use password Ephesians5:2
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

- **New guidance and requirements for memorial gardens and columbaria:** Last year, the Diocese of Massachusetts concluded nearly seven years of costly and painful litigation regarding the relocation of cremated remains from the memorial garden of a former Episcopal church property. While the diocese prevailed in the liti-

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gation, the opinion rendered by the Supreme Judicial Court hinged on appropriate documentation between the church and purchasers of burial plots. In response to this experience, the diocesan chancellor, Ned Notis-McConarty, and Canon to the Ordinary Bill Parnell have put forward guidance and requirements for churches with memorial gardens, columbaria or any other place for interment of cremated remains, along with a template for purchase agreements. These documents have been endorsed by the Standing Committee and its Real Estate Advisory Committee and are posted on the diocesan website [here](#).

The guidelines **require** that any church with an existing memorial garden or columbarium submit its governing documents for review to ensure that appropriate language is included which makes clear the terms of purchase, thus protecting the rights of the church and purchasers of burial plots. These documents are to be submitted to the canon to the ordinary at bparnell@diomass.org for review. Any recommendations for alteration of the documents will be provided after consultation with the chancellor.

Churches which are planning to establish a new memorial garden or columbarium are **required** to submit their proposal to the Real Estate Advisory Committee for review and approval by the Standing Committee.

The template for a purchase agreement may be adapted for local use, provided critical language (in bold in the document) is included.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Bill Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary (bparnell@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 205).

CHURCHWIDE:

- With the **81st General Convention** of The Episcopal Church, held June 23-28 in Louisville, Ky., now concluded, find coverage of many of its highlights and actions via Episcopal News Service, [here](#), and visit the Virtual Binder, [here](#), where you can search by topic and peruse actions taken on the nearly 400 resolutions that were considered. General Convention video content also is available on the Media Hub, [here](#), where you can watch worship services, legislative sessions, press conferences and special forums on demand.
 - Seeking to grow and strengthen The Episcopal Church's ministries that support members of Generation Z (those born between 1997 and 2012), The Episcopal Church's Department of Faith Formation is launching a **churchwide survey geared toward young people and those who serve them**. "The Episcopal Church Leadership Project: Toward a New Generation of Leaders" is a proposed three-phrase, three-year project to identify the gifts and challenges of ministry with and by Gen Z within the church; and to evaluate, revise and test resources and practices to help ministers reach and support this generation of leaders. Find "The Episcopal Church Leadership Project" survey for ordained and lay leaders online in English and Spanish [here](#). Read more about it [here](#).
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GRANTS & LOANS:

- The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council encourages congregations, organizations and networks in the Diocese of Massachusetts to apply for **Wicked Good Idea Microgrants** of up to \$2,500 to take on a ministry idea in their mission settings. The application is available [here](#). Questions may be e-mailed to missionstrategy@diomass.org.
- The Church Home Society has launched a three-year pilot grant program, allocating up to \$40,000 a year to support **youth ministries in Episcopal churches**. Grant awards will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Applications (form available [here](#)) are due the last day of the month, August 2024 through April 2025, and they will be reviewed at the following monthly board meeting.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Diocesan Council did not meet in June.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, July 18, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Please direct inquiries about this report to the [regional canons](#).

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Paul Kolbet will complete his ministry as interim at St. Paul's Church in Brookline and begin serving as priest-in-charge at St. Peter's Church in Weston on Sept. 3.

The Rev. Philip LaBelle completes his ministry as rector of St. Mark's Church in Southborough on July 31 and begins work on Aug. 1 as the bishop-elect of the Diocese of Olympia.

DEACONS ON THE MOVE:

Deacon Kris Holmes began new diaconal ministry at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion on June 2.

Deacon Ron Tibbetts began new diaconal ministry with the Grace Church, North Attleboro-St. John's Church, Franklin collaboration on June 16.

Central Region

Regional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

DORCHESTER, All Saints' Parish, Ashmont

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

NORWOOD, Grace Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church
SHARON, St. John's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: (Apply directly to parish.)

None at this time.

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CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:*None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church 1/2 time**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
*None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:****BOSTON, The Crossing:** Pastor and Community Leader**Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**HUDSON, St. Luke's Church
LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church
SHIRLEY, Trinity Chapel
WESTFORD, St. Mark's Church**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** (Apply directly to parish.)**READING, Church of the Good Shepherd** 3/4 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**AYER, St. Andrew's Church
FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church
HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore 1/2 time**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:***None at this time.***Southern Region**Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

SWANSEA, Christ Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:***None at this time.***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:***None at this time.*

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*Continued from page 5***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time[CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church](#)**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church 1/8 time

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church full time

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church full time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:***None at this time.***Clergy Supply List:** To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, or to be added to it, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at jcollen@diomass.org.

NEXT *fyi*:*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the August issue is **Wednesday, July 31 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.Find the newsletter **deadline schedule for 2024** [here](#).