



**Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

**The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)  
617-482-5800 / 617-482-4826

[Sign up for E-news](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

---

**Vision discernment listening sessions invite participation this month**

Bishop Julia Whitworth is eager to hear from clergy and lay leaders in the worshipping communities around the diocese as part of a process toward articulating a vision for collective work together as a diocese. In partnership with Ministry Architects, a week of listening sessions will be hosted in March in locations throughout the diocese, as well as via Zoom, to begin this process together.

Clergy and lay leaders in the diocese's worshipping communities are encouraged to consider participating in one of these small focus groups for vision discernment.

In-person sessions will be held the week of *March 15-20*, with Zoom sessions scheduled *March 24-26*. Find the full schedule and sign up at [www.diomass.org/visioning-2025](http://www.diomass.org/visioning-2025).

---

**2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal launches**

The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal has launched and is an invitation to strengthen and expand the work to which God calls us. In this year's appeal, Bishop Julia Whitworth highlights three areas of diocesan life together: strategic curacies; collaborative ministries; and equipping congregations for growth.

Please promote the Bishop's Annual Appeal locally: Announce it in your congregation and distribute materials directly to your people. While congregations may conduct an ingathering on any Sunday, please consider designating *March 30* as Bishop's Annual Appeal Ingathering Sunday.

Materials are being mailed directly to church offices. A newsletter, poster and sample bulletin announcements are available for downloading at [www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal](http://www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant ([braiche@diomass.org](mailto:braiche@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

---

**New ECM guide on handling immigration enforcement actions now available for churches**

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) has developed a new guide for handling immigration enforcement actions on church property. It includes "Frequently Asked Questions" and sample protocols covering ICE or Homeland Security presence; privacy and information sharing; and public and private spaces. Find the new resource, available in several languages, on ECM's website [here](#). A drop-in Q&A session will be offered on Zoom on *Thursday, March 6 at 12 p.m.* Register [here](#).

An additional list of resources to help the people of our diocese respond to new federal immigration policy is available at [www.diomass.org/immigration-resources-and-advocacy](http://www.diomass.org/immigration-resources-and-advocacy). It includes how to join weekly advocacy/policy update Zoom calls with The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations and Episcopal

*Continued on page 2*

---

*Continued from page 1*

Migration Ministries; know-your-rights resources from the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition; and worship and study materials.

---

### **Lenten Preaching Series & Holy Week at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul**

All are invited to deepen their Lenten practice by joining “From Hearts of Stone to Hearts of Flesh,” this year’s Lenten Preaching Series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, on four *Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.* The sermons will be offered as part of noonday prayer, ending by 1 p.m. A light lunch and conversation with the preacher follows. No sign-up is required.

- *March 19*, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean of the Cathedral, with dedication of a new history exhibit;
- *March 26*, The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Kittredge, Dean Emerita at Seminary of the Southwest;
- *April 2*, Matthew Bell, Editor and Correspondent at GBH’s “The World” and member of Grace Church in Medford; and
- *April 9*, The Rev. Mark V. Scott, Violence Prevention Program, Boston Public Health Commission, and President of the Board of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

Find the full schedule of Holy Week services at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, [here](#), which includes the **Renewal of Clergy Vows and Blessing of Holy Oils** on *Holy Tuesday, April 15 at 12 p.m.*, with lunch following (details about that service will be e-mailed to the clergy of the diocese).

---

### **NEWS & EVENT NOTES:**

At Diocesan Convention in 2023, every congregation was invited to pick up a copy of the book *Invite Welcome Connect: Stories & Tools to Transform Your Church*. Now, through a diocesan membership subscription, **all congregations of the diocese have access to all the resources on the Invite Welcome Connect website** at [www.invitewelcomeconnect.com](http://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com).

To access all of the materials fully, congregations need to create their own account. To do so, go to the Invite Welcome Connect website linked above and click on the “Subscribe” button. Follow the instructions under “Activate Account” and use IWC2025\_M28:19 as the coupon code. Questions about activating accounts or accessing materials can be directed to the regional canons or to [iwcteam@invitewelcomeconnect.com](mailto:iwcteam@invitewelcomeconnect.com).

- This year’s stewardship campaign theme from TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) is “Tell Out My Soul / Proclama mi alma.” The diocesan membership allows congregations **free access to TENS stewardship campaign materials**, which will be available later this spring. Access the campaign resources via [www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/tell-out-my-soul-2025-26](http://www.tens.org/annual-pledge-campaigns/tell-out-my-soul-2025-26). Use password: Luke1:46

FOR INFORMATION: Brian Raiche, Development Consultant ([braiche@diomass.org](mailto:braiche@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

---

- A **workshop for wardens and vestry members** will be offered twice via Zoom—on *Saturday, March 15* ([register here](#)) and again on *Saturday, April 5* ([register here](#)), 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. The workshop will be hosted by Canons Kelly O’Connell, Bill Parnell and Greg Perez.

Participants will learn about [An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#); discover how to spend less on buildings and free up resources for mission through the [Community Purchasing Alliance](#); hear about equipping and empowering their congregations with [Invite Welcome Connect](#) resources; explore new and updated Safe Church resources; meet new Regional Canon Marissa Rohrbach; and get acquainted with wardens and vestry members from other churches.

*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

- Join the Evangelism Working Group of Diocesan Council on Zoom for its **“New Models of Episcopal Evangelism Series”**—monthly presentations that celebrate creative examples of evangelism happening in the congregations and worshiping communities of the Diocese of Massachusetts. These ministries are “real, not ideal,” and are being shared to inspire, encourage and connect the people of God in the collaborative work of evangelism. There will be time for questions and discussion with presenters in each session.

Upcoming sessions are **“Small Church as a Laboratory for Experimentation,”** presented by the Rev. Malia Crawford of the Church of Our Saviour in Arlington on *Wednesday, March 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m.* ([details and register here](#)); and **“Welcoming the Community In Outside of Sunday Morning with Dover Unplugged,”** presented by Amelia Slawsby and George Motley of St. Dunstan’s Church in Dover, on *Tuesday, April 8, 5:30-6:30 p.m.* ([details and register here](#)).

To learn more about or join the Evangelism Working Group, e-mail the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock ([jlshoock@gmail.com](mailto:jlshoock@gmail.com)) or the Rev. Dr. Regina Walton ([rwalton@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:rwalton@hds.harvard.edu)).

- Registration is open for all sessions of the **2025 Clergy Professional Development Day**, offered in two parts, with each part held four times: *Tuesday, March 25* at St. Andrew’s Church in Marblehead; *Saturday, May 17* at Grace Church in New Bedford; *Wednesday, May 21* at St. Peter’s Church in Weston (*rescheduled from Feb. 27: those who were registered for Feb. 27 are invited to re-register for new session(s) as soon as possible*); and *Tuesday, Sept. 23* and *Wednesday, Sept. 24* on Zoom. Find details and registration [here](#).

**Part I is a workshop from [Braver Angels](#)** that all clergy are encouraged to attend. **Part II is a Safe Church Review** for clergy due to refresh Safe Church requirements in 2025. The review fulfills the refresher requirement, along with the Part I workshop and assigned online training. Clergy may attend the segments in any order and combination.

*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

- All clergy of the diocese are invited to attend the annual **Clergy Conference** which will take place at the Devens Common Center in Devens, *Monday-Wednesday, April 28-30*. The featured guest presenter, [the Rev. Becca Stevens](#), will lead the program, “Mountains to Molehills: Serving Side by Side, Along Broken Roads and Dreamy Callings,” across four sessions.

Details are to come regarding affinity group meetings and other optional activities. Those interested in hosting an affinity group during the conference or who have announcements to share on the Virtual Resources Table may contact Jennifer Garrett (as below).

**Find conference details and registration [here](#).** Deacons and part-time, associate, non-parochial and retired clergy registering for overnight conference attendance may use discount code: RELIEF25 and receive \$75 off the fee. The registration period for overnight attendance ends at noon on *Monday, March 31*. After March 31, discounts expire and a late registration fee of \$25 will apply. *FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

- **Rhythms of Grace: Worship and Faith-Formation for People with Neurodivergence:** The Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester will host this workshop on *Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*, to introduce the ministry of Rhythms of Grace, a curriculum for worship and faith formation for children and families with autism and other special needs. The workshop will discuss the unique gifts and challenges that people with autism bring to our communities, explore theological ideas around disability and offer some practical ways that congregations can share the knowledge and love of God with neuro-diverse people. The workshop is open to all; registration is requested [here](#).

This workshop is made possible by a diocesan Congregational Development Grant and the Parish of the Epiphany’s Lighthouse Ministry. Questions can be directed to [office@3crowns.org](mailto:office@3crowns.org).

- Three Saturday morning **Eucharistic Visitor trainings** are being offered this spring in partnership with the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer. Eucharistic Visitors extend the altar to include those who are homebound or in the hospital. This important pastoral and liturgical ministry is offered by adult lay members of the congregation who are certified by the diocese. In order to be certified, Eucharistic Visitors must complete Safe Church training, be nominated by their priest and attend a diocesan-approved training. Trainings are scheduled in each region of the diocese, *9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on:*
  - *April 26* at Grace Church in Medford;
  - *May 3* at St. David’s Church in South Yarmouth; and
  - *May 10* at the Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington.

Registration is available [here](#).

*FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator ([jgarrett@diomass.org](mailto:jgarrett@diomass.org)).*

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild will gather for its annual meeting** on *Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Christ Church in Quincy. The day includes Holy Eucharist and a luncheon, followed by a business meeting. This year's celebrant and luncheon speaker will be Bishop Julia Whitworth. Those who are new or returning to this ministry at their church and have questions about membership are invited to contact Diane Grondin ([dmgrondin@comcast.net](mailto:dmgrondin@comcast.net)) or Louise Gant ([lgant20@msn.com](mailto:lgant20@msn.com)).

- **“What Does It Mean to be Asian American in the Church and Our Society?”**: Asian Pacific Islander American Episcopalians of the diocese are hosting this celebration during Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, to take place on *Saturday, May 17, 3-7 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

The program will include a keynote and panel discussion featuring Bishop Suffragan Allen Shin, Episcopal Diocese of New York; the Rev. Jo Ann Lagman, Missioner of Asia American Ministry of The Episcopal Church; and Dr. Eunil David Cho, Associate Professor, Boston University School of Theology. Holy Eucharist and dinner will follow. All are welcome. Please register by May 10 [here](#).

- **Church Home Society invites Tripp Award nominees**: The [Church Home Society](#) was established in the 1800s by the Diocese of Massachusetts to care for orphans and youth, and is now an independent not-for-profit that funds church and secular organizations that aid underresourced youth. In 2010 the society's trustees created an annual award of \$10,000 in honor of long-time trustee and financial supporter William V. Tripp III. This award recognizes an organization or church that furthers the mission of helping disadvantaged youth. The Church Home Society invites submissions of names of organizations or groups sharing its mission, to be considered for the award; e-mail submissions to [tchs@diomass.org](mailto:tchs@diomass.org).

Last year's recipient was Care 4 Kids, a ministry of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans. Other past recipients have been Amazing Grace of Cape Cod, and Trinity Church in Rockland.

## **GRANTS & LOANS:**

- Requests for one-time grants from the **Boston Episcopal Charitable Society** can be made by clergy on behalf of individuals and families associated with their congregation who are facing difficult times due to job loss, illness or financial hardships. The society also makes a limited number of block grants annually to congregations located in areas of greater need. Clergy of congregations in the diocese are encouraged to let the society know about members of their congregation who would benefit from the society's help. Find more details [here](#).

The Boston Episcopal Charitable Society also welcomes new members. Member dues (currently \$80 per year) help keep the endowment fund healthy for current and future generations.

*FOR INFORMATION: Nina Faragher, Boston Episcopal Charitable Society Administrator* ([boston.episcopal.1724@gmail.com](mailto:boston.episcopal.1724@gmail.com)).



- **Recipients of 2024 and 2025 deanery House of Mercy or Sending Serving grants need to submit a brief year-end report**, 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 2024 report form is available [here](#). The 2025 report form is available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator for Governance and Grants ([mlias@diomass.org](mailto:mlias@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).*

- **Congregational Development Grants** are one way the diocesan budget supports worshipping communities in strengthening community vitality and deepening relationships with God. The program challenges congregations to try new programs and prayerfully reflect on current and proposed programs that nurture and reimagine congregational life.

The 2025 guidelines are available [here](#). **Letters of intent are due by March 15** via [this online form](#), with **completed applications ([here](#)) due by May 3**.

The diocesan committee entrusted with the stewardship of these funds seeks to ensure that recipients have followed through with the plans that served as the basis for receiving a grant; **2024 recipients are asked to complete, by March 14, the grant report form** found [here](#). Recipient congregations become eligible for further funds upon submission of this report.

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

- **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 for 2025 is *May 12*; notification of award decisions will be made by *June 9*. Find the grant materials [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Diocesan ([lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 407).*

- 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, through April 2025, and they will be reviewed at the following monthly board meeting.

---

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

### **At its Feb. 20 meeting, the Diocesan Council:**

- Heard updates about upcoming diocesan events and staffing changes.
- Received a memo from Standing Committee regarding the purchase of a diocese-owned property intended to be the permanent residence for the current and future bishops diocesan.

*Continued on page 7*

---

*Continued from page 6*

- Heard an update about the Bishop's Annual Appeal.
- Heard an update from the Compensation and Benefits Committee.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Ted Ts'o.
- Heard an update from the secretary, Julie Shea, about retreat feedback and norms setting.
- Heard a report from Executive Committee.

**Next Council Meeting:** *Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., at St. Peter's Church in Weston.*

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

---

## **CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:**

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

### **Central Region**

*Alewife and Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Gregory Perez*  
[gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)

*Boston Harbor and Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell*  
[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)

### **Northern and Western Region**

*Regional Canon Gregory Perez*  
[gperez@diomass.org](mailto:gperez@diomass.org)

### **DEACONS ON THE MOVE:**

**The Rev. Deacon Sonia Hodge** began serving at All Saints' Church in Whitman on Jan. 11.

**The Rev. Deacon H. Mark Smith** completed service with St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge and St. Mark's Church in Dorchester on Jan. 26.

### **CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

BEDFORD, St. Paul's Church

### **RECTOR SEARCHES**

#### **CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

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

#### **CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

*None at this time.*

#### **CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*

[NORWOOD, Grace Church](#) 40 percent time

#### **CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

DORCHESTER, Parish of All Saints, Ashmont

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

BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *half-time*

#### **INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

*None at this time.*

### **CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**

LAWRENCE, Grace Church *(bilingual: Spanish/English)*  
SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark's Church

### **RECTOR SEARCHES**

#### **CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church

**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[READING, Church of the Good Shepherd](#) 3/4 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***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.***CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

SWANSEA, Christ Church

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

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

**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**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](mailto:jcollen@diomass.org).

**Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

[koconnell@diomass.org](mailto:koconnell@diomass.org)***NEXT fyi:***

*fyi* is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the April issue is **Wednesday, March 26 at noon**. E-mail submissions to [tjs@diomass.org](mailto:tjs@diomass.org).

Find the newsletter deadline schedule for 2025 [here](#).