



Wednesday, March 4, 2020

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org

(617) 482-5800 / (617) 482-4826

[Events Calendar](#)

[Job Postings](#)

**Join Bishop Gates at
Mother's Day Walk for
Peace**

The 24th annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace, a pledge walk sponsored by the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#), happens on *Sunday, May 10*, beginning and ending at Town Field Park in Dorchester. Massachusetts Episcopalians are invited to join Bishop Alan M. Gates and the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign at the walk again this year to make a public witness against gun violence. The Diocese of Massachusetts and B-PEACE have participated in the walk every year since 2013.

It's not too early for congregations to gather their groups of walkers and make plans to participate. Register with and/or pledge in support of the B-PEACE for Jorge team [here](#), and find more information about the walk at www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Questions may be directed to bpeace@ssypboston.org.

**ER&D provides guidance
for proactive church
response to COVID-19**

With the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), updated guidelines from Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program are a recommended and helpful resource for congregations and ministries as they seek to make a conscientious and measured response. The guidelines include precautions related to individual prevention and liturgical practices, as well as material formatted for church bulletins, bulletin boards and social media.

The guidelines are consistent with the reasonable precautions that are advised every year during the flu season that is currently still active. Find the guidelines [here](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [monitoring](#) of coronavirus disease's potential as a public health threat in the U.S. is a reminder to be proactive about creating and reviewing preparedness plans. Preparedness planning resources also are available from Episcopal Relief & Development [here](#).

**New initiatives support
congregations in mission
strategy's embrace of
brave change**

"Wicked Good Idea" Microgrants are a new initiative encouraging congregations, networks and organizations in the diocese to try something new in their ministry context in support of the diocesan [mission strategy](#). The grants are a way to put some seed-money support behind ideas for how to do the work of Christ in new and creative ways, recognizing that budgets often don't have room for trying things that may or may not work.

A total of \$20,000 is available for grants in 2020. Applications will be received on a rolling basis for individual grants of \$500 to \$2,000. Find more information and the online application [here](#). Questions may be directed to the Mission Strategy Committee at missionstrategy@diomass.org.

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Regional Wardens Days are a new offering this year designed to equip wardens for leadership through studying and praying together, reflecting on successes and challenges, sharing resources and building collegiality with other wardens. These opportunities are a response to the diocesan [mission strategy](#)'s call to bring resources to congregations and support lay leadership. Wardens are invited to note the applicable gathering for their [region](#) and register online.

- Southern Region: *Saturday, March 7* at Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth (register [here](#));
- Northern and Western Region: *Saturday, March 28* at the Parish of the Epiphany (70 Church Street) in Winchester (register [here](#)); and
- Central Region: *Saturday, May 9* at Trinity Church (414 Sumner Street) in Stoughton (register [here](#)).

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

The series of one-hour **online book groups** that is underway will next take up *Climate Church, Climate World* by Jim Antal. The Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, the co-convenor of the Creation Care Justice Network in the diocese, will lead the discussion on *Wednesday, March 25, from 7 to 8 p.m.* (join [here](#)). Read more about it [here](#).

An additional title has been added to the series. *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict* by Donna Hicks will be discussed on *Wednesday, May 6, from 7 to 8 p.m.* (join [here](#)). Susan Ostberg, a professional mediator and a member of St. Andrew's Church in Ayer, will lead the discussion.

Everyone is invited to join one or both of these discussion groups, inspired by diocesan [mission strategy](#) themes of reimagining congregations, building relationships and engaging the world.

This year's "Encounters in the Holy Land" trip set for Oct. 5-16

Join co-leaders Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria, Rector of St. Peter's Church in Beverly, for "Encounters in the Holy Land," a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, *Oct. 5-16*. The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to cultural and holy sites—in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah—with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, healthcare and peacemaking ministries.

The group will meet with trip leaders two or three times in August and September for preparation and community building. Estimated cost is \$4,400 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by July 30. The registration deadline is June 1. *FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Executive Assistant to Bishop Gayle E. Harris (dames@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 445).*

Cathedral's "Put Down Your Sword" preaching series is underway

How are people of faith called to respond to, resist and reverse the scourge of violence in our times? What does Christ call his followers to do and be, individually and together as the church? This Lent, the annual preaching series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston is featuring pastors, clinicians and scholars who are prayerfully engaging these questions.

The series takes place on *Thursdays through April 2, at 12 p.m.*, featuring a brief worship service with guest sermon, followed by a light lunch and conversation with the preacher. All are welcome, and sign-up is not required. Upcoming on the schedule:

- *March 5:* Dr. Fernando Ona, Associate Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts School of Medicine;
- *March 12:* The Rev. Arrington Chambliss, Executive Director, Episcopal City Mission;
- *March 19:* The Rev. Mark V. Scott, Director of the Trauma Response and Recovery Program, Boston Public Health;
- *March 26:* Bishop Alan M. Gates; and
- *April 2:* The Rev. Jacqueline Clark, Associate Rector, Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Hingham.

Annual clergy renewal of vows service is April 7

The annual Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Clergy Vows Service takes place on *Tuesday, April 7, 11 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. There will be a luncheon following. RSVP by *Monday, March 30* to kvetiack@diomass.org. The cost is \$10 per person, payable the day of (checks may be made out to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, with "Holy Tuesday luncheon" in the memo line).

Visit www.stpaulboston.org for the full Holy Week schedule at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

FOR INFORMATION: Kevin Vetiack, Cathedral Administrator (kvetiack@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 221).

**Coming up:
Clergy Conference &
new Clergy Professional
Development Days**

Friday, March 27 is the deadline to register for the annual diocesan Clergy Conference, to be held *Monday-Wednesday, April 27-29* at the Babson Executive Conference Center (1 Snyder Drive) in Wellesley. This year's guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, William Maude Chair in Systematic Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary. Find more information about the conference and online registration [here](#).

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

Clergy Professional Development Days are a new offering this spring for all diocesan clergy, and will feature guest presenter Donna Hicks, Ph.D., of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and author of *Leading With Dignity* and *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*. These will take place from *9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on:*

- *Wednesday, May 13* at All Saints' Church (10 Billerica Road) in Chelmsford (register online [here](#));

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- *Thursday, May 14* at the Church of St. John the Evangelist (410 Washington Street) in Duxbury (register online [here](#)); and
- *Saturday, May 16* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston (register online [here](#)).

In addition to the program with Donna Hicks, the schedule at each Professional Development Day will include a Safe Church review segment that will fulfill the in-person refresher requirement for those clergy who are due for one this year.

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

NOTES:

- The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) provides **stewardship resources and training for clergy and lay leaders** across the church. The Diocese of Massachusetts provides full membership to TENS for its congregations, many of which use TENS resources and templates in their stewardship campaigns. Also helpful is the Stewardship Narrative Series that offers step-by-step stewardship campaign guidance to congregational leaders. The series, as well as other members-only resources, can be found at www.tens.org under “Resources.” The 2020 log-in information is:

Username: 1Peter Password: Four:10

FOR OTHER STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION: Bliss Austin Spooner, Director of Development (baustinspooner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

- *Friday, March 27* is the deadline for filing **2020 Congregational Leadership Reports and Diocesan Convention Delegate Certification Forms**. Find the two forms online [here](#). The information that congregations provide annually through this process helps ensure that important diocesan information reaches congregations’ current leaders in the upcoming year. In addition, the contact information gathered will be published in the Diocesan Directory.

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

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild’s annual meeting and luncheon** will be hosted by Christ Church (149 Court Street) in Plymouth on *Saturday, May 2*. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist is at 11 a.m., followed by the program and luncheon. This year’s guest speaker will be Donna Curtin, the executive director of the Pilgrim Hall Museum. All are welcome.

FOR INFORMATION: Diane Grondin, Diocesan Altar Guild (781-335-2198 or dmgrondin@comcast.net).

CHURCHWIDE:

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry invites congregations to participate in the annual **Good Friday Offering** in support of the four dioceses that make up the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. His letter and resource materials are available [here](#).

The Good Friday Offering reaches back to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, the Episcopal Church sought to create new relationships with and among Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts, which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created. Pastoral care, education and health care continue to be primary ministries of reconciliation in need of support.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Robert Edmunds, Episcopal Church Middle East Partnership Officer (redmunds@episcopalchurch.org).

- Episcopal Church **resources for civic engagement**—including a five-part **“Civil Discourse” curriculum**, a **U.S. Census engagement toolkit** and **“Vote Faithfully” resources** to help congregations encourage voting in their communities—are available online from the Office of Government Relations, [here](#).

- Those interested in the work of racial reconciliation are invited to participate in the churchwide **Building Beloved Community Conference** that takes place *May 5-7* at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Minneapolis. The conference is an opportunity for sharing best practices, learning about the broader work of racial reconciliation, studying and applying strategies for creating brave spaces and finding colleagues and friends in the work. Those who have engaged in racial reconciliation faithfully for decades, those newer to this work and those desiring to bring this work into their contexts are all invited to come and share.

The conference will feature wisdom from both Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry and House of Deputies President Gay Clark Jennings, who together share responsibility for the Becoming Beloved Community vision. In the spirit of sharing most broadly, the talks and plenary sessions will be live-streamed and then available on-demand within a few days.

Early-bird conference rates are available for those who register by March 31. Find more information [here](#).

There will be a special workshop at the conference for those who plan to apply for funding through **Becoming Beloved Community Grants**. The application period for the second round of these grants is *May 7-Aug. 15*. More information will be available as the date approaches.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Edwin Johnson, Chair, Presiding Officers’ Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation (padreedwinj@gmail.com) or Sarah Alphin, Associate for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care (salphin@episcopalchurch.org).

● The Joint Standing Committee for Nominations for General Convention is **still accepting nominations for:** members of the Court of Review, Disciplinary Board for Bishops, Executive Council, General Board of Examining Chaplains, and Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of a Presiding Bishop; trustees of the Church Pension Fund and General Theological Seminary; secretary of the the House of Deputies; and treasurer of General Convention.

The application and links to position descriptions are available [here](#). The deadline to apply is *March 31, 2020*; elections will be held at the 80th General Convention in Baltimore, Md., *June 30–July 9, 2021*.

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (hmsmith@diomass.org) or 617/482-4826, ext. 215

● Online registration is still open for two Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 20-21* and *April 3-4*. Both retreats will be held at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Confirmands and their mentors will gather to meet other young people and explore their call to Confirmation, its promise and challenge. The retreats are led by the members of the Diocesan Youth Council, who will lead small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journey. Retreats also provide potential confirmands a chance to meet and ask questions of their bishops. A recruiting flier is available [here](#). Register online [here](#).

● Across the diocese, youth ministry is happening in a wide variety of contexts and takes many shapes, on many scales. The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry wants to know **what youth ministry looks like now in individual congregations and how best to support congregation-based efforts**. A brief **online survey** is available [here](#) and provides an opportunity to share a snapshot of what youth ministry looks like in your congregation—whether it's a large program or just one or two young people.

In addition to the survey, youth ministry staff are talking to as many youth workers, ministers and other youth leaders as possible to listen more deeply to their dreams and challenges. Use the survey to indicate if you'd like to have a follow-up conversation.

FOR INFORMATION: Eva Dalzell, Youth Ministry Fellow (edalzell@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 232).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

● The annual series of **Congregational Business Practices Workshops** offered by the diocese's Congregational Consultants concludes this month, with two final opportunities to participate:

- *Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at St. Peter's Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay ([register online here](#)); and
- *Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at St. Paul's Church (26 Washington Street) in Malden ([register online here](#)).

The workshop gives congregational leaders—especially those new

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to their roles—an exposure to the basics of good business practices in general, and Episcopal Church business practices in particular. These workshops are important for vestry members, treasurers, officers and clergy—anyone involved in the business matters of the congregation.

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

- Beginning in January, members of the Creation Care Justice Network have been offering **“Next Steps for Creation” workshops** to congregations by deanery to talk about faith community responses to climate change and to introduce the [“Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home”](#) online carbon tracker. To date, there have been workshops in the Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay, South Shore, Charles River and Cape and Islands deaneries. The next scheduled workshops will be offered on:

- *Wednesday, March 18, 6-8 p.m.*, for Neponset River Deanery congregations at the Church of the Holy Spirit (525 River Street) in Mattapan. Supper will be provided. RSVP to the Rev. Lise Hildebrandt at lisehild@gmail.com.
- *Sunday, May 3, 1-3 p.m.*, for Boston Harbor Deanery congregations at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. RSVP to the Rev. Laurie Rofinot at larofinot@gmail.com.

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on *Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at St. David’s Church (205 Old Main Street) in South Yarmouth. This training provides the required licensing to be a Eucharistic Visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained and authorized to administer the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. During this training, participants will gain understanding of church practices and canons, best practices of a home Eucharistic visit and more. Find more details and register online [here](#).

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

- **Immigration Workshop:** This diocesan-sponsored educational program is for anyone who wants to learn more about immigration issues, related Episcopal Church ministry and opportunities for involvement. Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, will host the event at the Church of the Good Shepherd (164 Newtown Road) in Acton on *Saturday, March 28, 4-7 p.m.*

Dinner will be provided; RSVP to jbntagengwa@diomass.org.

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

- The diocesan Lifespan Ministry with Older Adults is planning the first in a series of regional events addressing the challenges of becoming an **“Age and Dementia Friendly Church.”** It is scheduled for *Saturday, May 2* in the Southern Region of the diocese (exact location to be announced). This will be a free-of-charge half-day conference, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for both clergy and lay members of congregations. Topics will include the spirituality of aging, as well as presentations by speakers from the Massachusetts Council on Aging and Alzheimer’s Association.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Phil Flaherty
[\(\[lifespanministry@diomass.org\]\(mailto:lifespanministry@diomass.org\)\)](mailto:lifespanministry@diomass.org).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- **Mission Strategy “Wicked Good Idea” Microgrants:**

See page 1.

- The **Sustainable Development Grant** program focuses on projects that address one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Applications are due by *Thursday, March 19*. Find details [here](#).

Mission Tithe Relationship Grants are a resource for congregations entering new global mission partnerships. Applications are due by *Monday, April 20*. Find details [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Holly Hartman (hhartman@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 351) or *The Rev. Marilyn McMillan* (mmc-millan@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 422).

- Applications for **2020 Congregational Development Grants** are now available online [here](#). These funds are intended to support worshipping communities in strengthening community vitality and deepening relationships with God, and to challenge congregations to try new programs that nurture and reimagine congregational life. Letters of intent were due *March 2*; completed applications are due on *Friday, May 1*.

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

- **Scholarship grants for children of clergy:** 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 for the 2020-2021 academic year. Applications are due to lsimons@diomass.org by *Friday, May 8*. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by *Friday, June 5*. The Statement of Policy and Procedure, which is the basis for making awards, and the Student Personal and Financial Profile, which all applicants are asked to complete, are available online [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. 20 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update about the Mission Initiatives Committee and thanked the outgoing chair, the Rev. Rebecca Blair, and outgoing members, the Rev. Paul Minor, the Rev. Melanie McCarley and Virginia Rogers.

Welcomed the Rev. Rachel Wildman as the newly appointed assistant secretary.

Voted to approve assessment adjustments for Trinity Church in Randolph and St. Stephen's Church in Cohasset.

Heard a report about the final stage of the Together Now campaign.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about current and planned programs.

Heard a report about the Boston Harbor Deanery.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

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

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Jennifer Beal ended her work as supply priest with the Chinese congregation at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston and began as supply priest at All Saints' Church in West Newbury in February.

The Rev. Scott Ciosek is serving as Protestant chaplain at UMass, South Dartmouth.

The Rev. Paul Kolbet began as interim priest at All Saints' Church in Chelmsford in February.

The Rev. John Olsson is serving as priest-in-charge at St. Martin's Church in New Bedford.

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BOSTON, Christ Church (Old North)

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, St. Paul's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church *full-time*

CHARLESTOWN, 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.

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PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:*Contact the regional canon to be considered.*BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church *half-time*MEDWAY, Christ Church *one-third-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.**None at this time.***Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:*None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)**None at this time.***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd *full-time*MELROSE, Trinity Church *three-quarters-time redeveloper*WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany *full-time***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:***Contact the regional canon to be considered.*HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*LYNN, St. Stephen's Church *full-time*MALDEN, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church *half-time*SAUGUS, St. John's Church *half-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:***Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.**None at this time.***Southern Region**Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *full-time***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church *half-time*

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*Continued from page 10***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time*
 MARION, St. Gabriel's Church *full-time*
 QUINCY, Parish of St. Chrysostom *full-time*
 SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour *two-thirds time*
 WHITMAN, All Saints' Church *half-time*

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

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church *half-time*

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

HARWICH PORT, Christ Church
 NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church
 TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:

*Contact the regional canon to be considered.
 None at this time.*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

*Priests with interim training may contact the regional canon to be considered.
 None at this time.*

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the April 1 issue is **Wednesday, March 25 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.