



Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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](#)

**Congregations invited
to commemorate Bishop
Barbara C. Harris**

As the first anniversary of Bishop Barbara C. Harris's death on March 13 approaches, the bishops have invited grateful recollection of her in individual and communal devotions. Remembrances may be a simple pause for a prayer of gratitude, or incorporation into a more extended liturgical opportunity, such as a service of Compline or other office. A collect and suggested propers are among an online collection of resources, [here](#).

Brief descriptions of commemorations offered by congregations can be sent to the Office of the Bishop, in care of Laura Simons at lsimons@diomass.org; such accounts may become part of the testimony for subsequent consideration of churchwide observance.

**Cathedral to offer special
service of Compline, March 12**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston will offer an online service of Compline on *Friday, March 12 at 8 p.m.*, commemorating the one-year anniversary of Bishop Barbara Harris's passing. Byron Rushing will offer a reflection during the service. All are welcome. Click [here](#) to register for the service link.

**Input still welcome for
mission strategy review**

The Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council has invited clergy and lay leaders to help refresh the shared [diocesan mission strategy](#), which is canonically due for a review this year. [This document](#) is available to help guide group conversations. E-mail the resulting discussion notes, chat logs or other feedback by *Friday, March 19* to missionstrategy@diomass.org. Additional ways to engage in this process will be provided in upcoming days. Questions may be e-mailed to missionstrategy@diomass.org.

**Collaborative Ministries
Working Group now
forming within diocese**

Has your congregation partnered with another in a way that brought new energy and ministry to life? Or can you envision such a partnership in the future? Are you a clergy person who shares your time between a congregation and another vocation or ministry? If so, the Collaborative Ministries Working Group would love to hear about your experiences.

Called for by Bishop Alan M. Gates in his Diocesan Convention [address](#), this group's first task will be to listen and learn about the variety of collaborative ministries in the diocese. The group will examine past and current collaborations and explore possibilities for future ones, and is looking forward to learning what has worked, what has failed and what is needed to sustain vital collaboration. Come share your wisdom in listening groups (which will be scheduled later this spring) or by being interviewed.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell (koconnell@diomass.org) or The Rev. Megan Holding (theholdings@gmail.com).

Cathedral inaugurates COVID-19 memorial book

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston has dedicated a memorial book into which names will be inscribed of those who have died of COVID-19. All are invited to send names for remembrance in the book. They can be e-mailed to cathedral@diomass.org or submitted via the cathedral church's COVID-19 resource webpage, [here](#). Read more about the memorial book project [here](#).

“Repentance 2021” preaching series continues online

- “Repentance 2021—Turning back to God here and now”: The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston invites everyone to take part in its [annual Lenten Preaching Series](#), via Zoom, on *Thursdays at noon throughout Lent*. This year's series lifts up voices of leaders who are fairly new to the greater Boston area or who have come to see the area anew. The sermons will be offered within the context of a brief service of noonday prayer. Conversation with the preacher and other attendees follows, with an end time of 1:15 p.m. Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Looking ahead toward Holy Week:

- The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened through the Office of the Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, together with the diocesan Racial Justice Commission, invite everyone to join virtually with Bishop Gayle E. Harris for a **multicultural celebration of Passover and Easter**, on *Saturday, March 27 at 5 p.m.* Register in advance [here](#) to receive the online link. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).*

- A **Holy Tuesday gathering with renewal of ordination vows** for the clergy of the diocese is planned for *Tuesday, March 30 at 11 a.m.* via Zoom. Details and the Zoom link will be e-mailed directly to clergy. Questions may be directed to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul at cathedral@diomass.org.

- The diocesan Liturgy and Music Commission is creating **pre-recorded liturgies for each night of the Triduum**, available for use by congregations in the diocese. The goal is to create liturgies that include a wide variety of music, photos, voices, ages and languages from many congregations. Plans call for recordings of a liturgy for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil to be available via links on the diocesan website [here](#) early in Holy Week.

The commission also plans to make available a pre-recorded Easter sermon and anthem (Randall Thompson's "Alleluia") that can be incorporated into a congregation's Easter Day service, as well as a sermon for the second Sunday of Easter.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Elise Feyerherm (efeyerherm@stpauls-brookline.org) or Sister Kristina Frances, SSM (kristinafrances@smbos.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The **Episcopal Church's Good Friday Offering** provides an annual opportunity to support churches, medical programs and schools in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

First gathered in 1922, the initial Good Friday Offering was an intentional response to support Anglican ministries in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East that were impacted by the devastation of World War I, the Spanish flu pandemic and unrest affecting Armenian Christians, among others throughout that region.

In his 2021 Good Friday Offering letter, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry writes: "For those who are able to give, the Good Friday Offering is a reminder for our Anglican brothers and sisters in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East that the Episcopal Church stands in solidarity with them in Jesus' name."

Gifts can be made this year online or via text in addition to mail. Good Friday Offering information and materials are available at www.episcopalchurch.org/good-friday-offering.

- The Office of Government Relations has developed a **COVID-19 vaccination information toolkit** to facilitate and promote COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the United States. This toolkit offers ways that communities can help U.S.-based Episcopalians to facilitate vaccination, overcome vaccine hesitancy and find information from state and local officials. Churches and church leaders can serve as an important trusted bridge between public health officials and communities. Find the toolkit, in English and Spanish, [here](#).

- The Episcopal Church's **Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment** has announced that a **sixth set of grants is now available** for Episcopal dioceses and mission developers who are envisioning, planning or growing new worshiping communities and missional enterprises throughout the church. The grants are part of a \$2.5-million initiative funded by the 2018 General Convention that seeks to celebrate and strategically support emerging communities and build partnerships within and beyond the church, expand language of ministry and create new ways for the church to engage the people of God. The application deadline is *March 15*. Find more information [here](#).

- The Episcopal Church's **Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism** is now accepting applications for its **2021 grant cycle**. It is important that proposals go beyond secular environmental work to provide resources for faith-based community organizing, theological reflection and response concerning the sin of environmental racism and reconciliation around the concept of environmental reparations. The task force is committed to supporting efforts which are supported and led by youth and young adults, communities of color and indigenous peoples. Grant awards will range from \$15,000 to \$40,000. The application deadline has been extended to *April 16*. Find more information [here](#).
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- The Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation has announced the availability of **grants to catalyze the church's work of racial healing, reconciliation and justice**. Allocated by the 2018 General Convention, this funding is intended to build capacity and increase Episcopal engagement in four primary fields: telling the truth about our churches and race; proclaiming the dream of Beloved Community; practicing Jesus' way of healing and reconciliation; and repairing the breach in institutions and society. These grants are available to Episcopal institutions (parishes, dioceses, provinces, schools, seminaries, monastic communities) and other Episcopal-affiliated entities. The application deadline is *April 12*. Find more information [here](#).
- At the request of the 2018 General Convention, newly created [Guidelines for Policy on Amending Church Records for Name and Gender Changes](#) are now available on the Archives [website](#) with Spanish translation and supporting resources and links. The guidelines may be used by churches and dioceses to address individuals' requests to align name and gender entries with usage they have legally adopted in civil jurisdictions. Name and gender identity in records are particularly sensitive to instances where individuals seek to safeguard their privacy, protect themselves from harm or simply to revise records that do not accurately represent their identity.

NOTES:

- Information about the **2021 Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification forms** was e-mailed to all parochial clergy and administrative contacts in February. Please see the diocesan website for information about the reporting process: www.diomass.org/leadership-reporting-forms. The information provided through this process is critical to make sure that important diocesan information reaches each congregation's current leaders.

Congregations are asked to send updated information requested in the forms to the Office of Convention and Council within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons and no later than *Friday, March 26*.

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

- Many congregations have feeding programs and food pantries and work in various ways to address hunger in their communities, and a new **Food Security Network** is forming in the diocese around these ministries. Join with others for an online gathering on *Wednesday, March 10 at 5 p.m.*
FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).
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- **Lenten “Love and Lamentation for Creation” series continues for Sundays in March:** Created by the Rev. Lise Hildebrandt, a convener of the Creation Care Justice Network, these sessions use guided meditation, observation, Scripture, fact and prayer to explore one aspect each week, and are appropriate for older children to adults and adaptable for younger children. You can request a free household resource to use locally or come to in-person events in the Arlington area (*Sunday afternoons, March 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 3 p.m.*). For specifics on locations or to sign up for either the household resource or in-person gatherings, click [here](#).

- **Faith Climate Action Week is April 16-25:** Interfaith Power & Light is providing resources for Faith Climate Action Week on the theme of “Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections Between our Faith, our Food and the Climate.” Resources are available [here](#) and include the Nationwide Climate Prayer (April 22 at noon), hosting a film screening and discussion (“Kiss the Ground,” on regenerating healthy soil) and worship resources. Clergy are invited to preach on climate justice either April 19 or 26. Additional resources can be found at www.earthday.org. Contact Liz Good (deaconeliz@gmail.com) to share word of planned events.

- The **Creation Care Justice Network** meets on the **first Wednesday of the month at noon**, with the next meeting on March 3. Contact Lise Hildebrandt (lise.hild@posteo.net) for the meeting link. Persons interested in the Action and Advocacy working group should contact Alex Chatfield (adchat@aol.com) or Sue Swanson (sueswanson2003@gmail.com); the Spiritual Practice and Grounding group, Lise Hildebrandt (lise.hild@posteo.net); or the Communications and Networking group, Liz Good (deaconeliz@gmail.com).

- Interim diocesan CFO Cynthia Hallenbeck invites clergy, wardens and treasurers to join monthly online for the newly established **Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders**, an opportunity to share information on current finance-related items such as Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness, changes to the Stokes/Green loans and the impact to congregations of the automating of the diocese’s payments process. This monthly forum will also provide an opportunity for participants to suggest topics that would be useful to be covered. (These forums will not supplant the ongoing series of monthly Zoom sessions run by the Congregational Consultants [see page 6] which are focused on a variety of practical aspects of congregational leadership and not solely on financial matters.)
 The Finance Forum for Congregational Leaders will be offered on the **fourth Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**, March 23, April 27, May 25 and June 22. Click [here](#) to register for the online meeting link.
FOR INFORMATION: Cynthia Hallenbeck, Interim CFO (challenbeck@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 554).

- **Congregational Consultants host series of Zoom calls on the practical aspects of congregational leadership:** These will include topics of interest to vestries and particularly to wardens and treasurers. In March, consultant Terry Robinson will present a session on **how to fill out the financial portion of the Parochial Report** using techniques that can make the task much easier and quicker, while providing meaningful information to Episcopal leadership, diocesan staff and the congregation itself. This one-hour call will be held on *Thursday, March 11 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)) and again on *Saturday, March 13 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)).

The **non-financial portions of the Parochial Report**, including new information requested this year for the first time, will be covered in a Zoom call led by the Rev. Cynthia Hubbard, longtime priest in the diocese and former diocesan canon for transition ministry. This seminar will be held on *Thursday, March 25 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)) and again on *Saturday, March 27 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)). Sessions will be recorded for later access.

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

- The Massachusetts State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division holds more than \$3 billion in unclaimed funds for Commonwealth citizens, businesses and organizations. The division holds these funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or heirs. A search using the word "Episcopal" on the division's website results in a list of **Episcopal churches with unclaimed funds**. Find more information at www.findmassmoney.com.

- **Clergy Professional Development Days** in 2021 are being offered online via Zoom for all diocesan clergy, in two parts (each part offered four times). All diocesan clergy are encouraged to register for a Part I session, being offered in conjunction with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts; attendance for both Part I and Part II (the Safe Church review) is required for any clergy due for a Safe Church refresher in 2021.

Part I will focus on the topic "Antagonistic People: Dealing with Bullies in the Church" and will feature as guest speakers Patricia Gianotti, PsyD, and Christyn Sieve, PsyD. Upcoming Part I sessions are scheduled on the following dates:

- *Saturday, April 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Tuesday, June 15, 12:30-3 p.m.*
- *Friday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Part II comprises the Safe Church review for Diocese of Massachusetts clergy due for a refresher, with upcoming sessions on:

- *Saturday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*
- *Wednesday, June 23, 12:30-3 p.m.*
- *Friday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Find more details and registration links [here](#).

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

- Are you a clergy person thinking about retiring in the next 12-24 months and beginning to think about life in retirement? Are you wondering about leaving your community and moving? The regional canons are starting a **group for clergy who would like to discuss navigating the changes that retirement brings**. This is not about finances or Church Pension Group benefits. It is about taking care of yourself as you move into this significant life change. Please talk to your regional canon (as below) if you are interested.

- It can be isolating to be the spouse of a clergy person. Bexley Seabury has created The Partner's Path, an **online forum for Episcopal clergy spouses** to connect, share stories, explore resources and provide support. It includes monthly conversations and presentations. Find registration information [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Central Region (cgallagher@diomass.org); The Rev. Canon Martha Hubbard, Northern and Western Region (mhubbard@diomass.org); The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell, Southern Region (koconnell@diomass.org).

FORMATION Opportunities:

- The Diocese of Massachusetts will be offering regular opportunities for interested lay people who want to **learn how to lead the Daily Offices, in particular Morning Prayer**. The Rev. Carol Morehead, Rector of Grace Church in Medford, will give an online training on *Sunday, March 14, 1-3 p.m.*, for beginners and as a refresher for those who are being called upon more often during the COVID-19 pandemic. This training is especially appropriate for anyone who wishes to be licensed by the bishop as a Lay Worship Leader. Register online [here](#); space is limited to 20 people.

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

- The Diocese of Massachusetts now has a **ChurchNext diocesan formation school**, enabling participation in more than 400 available classes offered by ChurchNext at no cost. More than half of the courses are designed for group settings (and can work easily on Zoom), and discussion questions are provided. Congregations can organize classes into particular tracks, depending on their needs. Recent classes added include "What Vestries Need to Know About Money" and "How to Raise Resilient Children." Visit www.churchnext.tv/library to learn more and contact Martha Gardner (mgardner@diomass.org) to register for a class.

Additionally, the diocese has purchased a "season pass" which allows several people to take one or more **2021 Vibrant Faith MasterClasses** at no cost. These are a focused look at one aspect of lifelong faith formation, presented by an expert teacher. The goal is to enhance knowledge, skills and confidence for leading faith formation that transforms people and communities. Upcoming classes in March include "Courage to Connect Across Cultures"

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and “Digital: Essential Skills and Tools for Digitally Integrated Ministry and Faith Formation.” Learn more [here](#).

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

- This year’s annual **Province I Formation Gathering** for formation colleagues across New England takes place online on *Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6*. On Friday evening, 7-9 p.m., Lisa Kimball, Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), and the Rev. Patricia Lyons, Senior Advisor to the Dean for Evangelism Initiatives at VTS, will speak on “The Marriage of Formation and Evangelism,” with TED-style talks on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Register and find more details [here](#). FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- All **children’s formation colleagues**—paid or volunteer, clergy or lay, full or part-time—are welcome at regular **online gatherings**, scheduled on upcoming *Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: March 11 and 25, and April 8 and 22*. The meeting link can be found [here](#). To be added to the list to receive notices of meetings, events and resources, contact Martha Gardner, Missioner of Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

Youth and Young Adult Ministries:

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

- Middle and high school-aged young people are invited to **join the Diocesan Youth Council and Bishop Gayle E. Harris for a virtual half-day retreat** on *Saturday, March 20*. From 2 to 4 p.m., the group will get a chance to talk with Bishop Harris about how our faith impacts the way we interact with the world. Then, the group will break for an hour and return at 5 p.m. for fun virtual games, including the premiere of a new one: “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader, Bishop Gayle?” Participants can pick one session or the other, or join for both. Register online [here](#).

- **New dates for youth worker meetings:** The ongoing online gatherings for youth workers in the diocese will now be held on the **first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m.** The next meeting is *Thursday, March 4*. To suggest topics, or to volunteer to demonstrate a game or activity or lead a discussion, contact the Rev. H. Mark Smith at hmsmith@diomass.org. Visit www.diomassyouth.org/events for meeting links.

On the *third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.*, the Episcopal Church’s Youth Ministry Network holds a meeting for anyone engaged with any level of youth ministry in the church. The online room is open for 90 minutes with program time or featured guests in the first 45 minutes of the meeting and hang-out time to follow. Register for those meetings [here](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Feb. 18 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard updates from the Treasurer's Office about the Assessment Formula Review working group, the Budget Committee and the status of outstanding assessment payments.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee.

Heard a report from the Mission Initiatives Committee.

Heard a report from the Charles River Deanery.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: Thursday, March 18, 6 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:

[www.diomass.org/clergy
transition](http://www.diomass.org/clergy_transition)

Central Region

Regional Canon Carol Gallagher
cgallagher@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Emily Garcia has been called as assistant rector of the Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington and begins in March. The Rev. Suzanne Wade has been appointed priest in charge of Trinity Chapel in Shirley beginning March 1.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Bartholomew's Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

[CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church](#) *full-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.*

None at this time.

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

CHELMSFORD, All Saints' Church
WAKEFIELD, Emmanuel Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

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CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

TOPSFIELD, Trinity Church

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.*HOPKINTON, St. Paul's Church *quarter-time*METHUEN, St. Andrew's Church *quarter-time***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***OTHER CLERGY POSITIONS:**LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church: [Curate/Assistant](#)**Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit *full-time***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church of the Holy Nativity *half-time***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*[SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour](#) *two-thirds time***CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:**

WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.**None at this time.***NEXT fyi:**

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the April 7 issue is **Wednesday, March 31 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.