

Archbishop Anne's Advent 2019 Ad Clerum



“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” Rev. 21.3-4

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (BAS. Pg. 602)

My dear friends in Christ,

“Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (Romans 13:11-12)

In his book ‘Craddock Stories’, the preacher Fred Craddock describes an event that took place at a Wednesday evening service at Temple Baptist Church.

“I went to a service down at Temple Baptist Church on Wednesday night. I could hardly worship. There was a couple in front of me that talked through the whole service. I mean the whole service. They weren’t young people, you know, they were nearly as old as I am. They were punching each other and talking about everybody sitting in the choir. “See that woman up there? We went to school together, that’s before we moved away. I never knew she could sing. I don’t know what she’s doing up there.” They went on like that, and just like two mean ducks, picked apart everybody up there.

Why did they come? If you’re not going to be awake; if you don’t enter every room, every relationship, every moment saying, “This could be it,” you will miss the coming. Stay alert, stay alert.

You know, I had a thought, not much of a thought, but a thought. Suppose, just suppose, that God, who is full of surprises, were to come among us as a baby – a crying red faced, Jewish baby, seven pounds three ounces, kicking arms and legs, with a band around the middle holding the tied cord, a mother attending, and a poor carpenter man standing there looking on.

What if God were to do it that way?

Do you think you’d miss it?

I’m going to stay awake.

I wouldn’t miss it for the world.”

Don’t be distracted! Don’t miss out! Wake up because God is coming soon.

During Advent we focus upon, prepare for, and explore the significance of a God who not only loves us but comes to us. Who is Emmanuel – God with us. It is a season of hope that God’s promised future will come again, just as it did that first Christmas Eve.

Advent is the time for us to live into that new reality. As the Advent candles are lit each week the darkness around dissipates until eventually the Christ candle, representing the Light of the World shines in its fullness. This is the light we have inside us, given in

baptism. We who have been baptized into the promises of God have already taken off the night clothes of selfishness and ignorance and put on the new clothes of Christ.

These metaphors of old and new, darkness and light are found everywhere in Paul's writings – in Ephesians 5:14 Paul says: "*Sleeper awake, rise from the dead.*" And my personal favourite in Galatians: "*It is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me.*"

In Christ we are new creations and so we look to a new day when God and humanity will be reconciled - when peace and justice will be the hallmarks of human society, when swords will be turned into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Now is the time for us to start living as if this new day has already begun.

If we live in a way that it is no longer me who lives but Christ who lives in me, we may catch a glimpse of what is possible right now. If we can learn to trust our lives and our time to God, we will start to see all the ways in which Jesus breaks into our lives and transforms them in some really amazing ways.

Several years ago, I visited a man from Muskoka in hospital who'd come to Sudbury for open heart surgery. The doctor had told him that he had no more of a 50/50 chance of surviving but he beat the odds and came through it well. When I visited him afterwards I said, "See you made it through, you survived. Isn't that wonderful."

Some ten years later I ran into him at Synod, and we spoke about his life after surgery. He said to me, "Anne, I didn't just get through it and survive. I did more than that, I was transformed. I'm not the same person I was when I went into that surgery. It is like God reached into my life and through this illness made me somebody better than before. I'm living differently. I have a whole new outlook on life"

"O Come Emmanuel" we pray during Advent. May Christ come to you during this holy season and intrude you ordinary life, transforming it from the inside out.

With affection and gratitude for all the ways in which you live as people of the light, dispelling fears of the darkness. May your Advent bring you to the fullness of joy on Christmas Eve as you celebrate the gift of our Saviour.

Blessings upon you all,

+Anne



“The Sign”

This year’s Christmas card is called, “The Sign”. It is a print of an original painting which is in the Sacred Circle at St. Paul’s in Thunder Bay. The Indigenous artist who created this work, Abe Kakepetum, says the people pointing to the new start in the sky represent all humanity who are looking forward to the arrival of the new born king who came to bring peace and justice to all.

New appointments:

Please join me in congratulating these individuals on their new appointments in Algoma. Let them be assured of our prayerful support as they undertake their new ministries and along with the additional responsibilities of these roles.

- ❖ Ms. Amy Bottos from St. Paul’s Church in Thunder Bay has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor for Algoma. Amy serves as a lawyer for Legal Aid Ontario and has also served in a number of positions within the life of the church. Ms. Bottos will be officially installed at our next regular Synod. The role of Vice Chancellor would be to assist the Chancellor, Mr. Garth O Neill, if he were unavailable.

- ❖ The Rev. Heather Manuel has been appointed as the Pastoral Chaplain for the Deanery of Muskoka. Heather presently serves as the Incumbent for St. James Gravenhurst, Holy Manger Barkway, and Trinity-All Saints in Bala.
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. Gail Marie Henderson, Incumbent of Muskoka Lakes, has been appointed as the Chaplain for the Algoma Lay Readers. She will work closely with the Diocesan Warden for Lay Readers, Ms. Alison Weir, as well as with the Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle who is responsible for Ministry Formation and Concurrence in Algoma. Part of their mandate will be to rewrite the Lay Readers' Manual and to keep encouraging the formation of our Lay Readers through various theological education programs that are offered through Thorneloe University and in Diocesan and Deanery education and formation events.
- ❖ The Rev. Nancy Ringham has been appointed as the Interim Incumbent at St. Michael and All Angels in Thunder Bay, effective December 1st, 2019. Please uphold Rev. Nancy and this parish in your prayers in a special way as they continue to grieve the death of their beloved priest and pastor, Rev. Charlene Sriver.
- ❖ The Rev. Catherine Murkin has been appointed as the Incumbent for the Parish of Good Shepherd (Emsdale) and Almaguin, comprised of Grace Church (South River), St. John (Eagle Lake) and St. George, Magnetewan. This appointment will be effective on February 15th, 2020. Rev. Catherine is new to Algoma, coming to us from the Diocese of Moosonee. She presently serves as the incumbent of St. Peter's on the Rock in Kirkland Lake, a position she has held since December 2014. Rev. Catherine came to Ontario from New Brunswick where she was very involved in Threshold Ministries and is a Commissioned Evangelist in that organization. She has completed the residential training program for Threshold Ministries through the Taylor College of Mission and Evangelism (2008 -2010) and has taken courses through the Atlantic School of Theology and Wycliffe College towards a Master of Divinity program.
- ❖ The Rev. Kelly Baetz has been appointed as the Incumbent for All Saints' (Hunstville), effective February 11th, 2020, and also as the Archdeacon for Muskoka Deanery effective January 1st, 2020. Rev. Kelly presently serves as the Regional Dean for Muskoka and the Incumbent for St. Thomas, Bracebridge, a position she has held since 2006. In 2019 she was also appointed as the Incumbent for Lake of Bays. Kelly has a Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton University and a Master of Divinity from Wycliffe. The date for Rev. Kelly's Collation as Archdeacon will be set early in the new year.
- ❖ The Rev. Lynda Mee has been appointed the Deacon-in Charge of Christ Church, Port Sydney for six months, beginning in January 2020. In this capacity she will be responsible for the pastoral needs of the community, Sunday morning services, and she will work with the Territorial Archdeacon in providing sacramental ministry as needed.



Glen Miller and GailMarie Henderson at Thorneloe's Convocation

Thank you to Interim Incumbents and those who provide occasional services.

Times of change and transition are often very stressful for our deaneries and parishes. I am enormously grateful for the pastoral care and support offered to them through the ministry of the Territorial Archdeacons, parish leadership, and Interim Incumbents. Thank you to the following clergy for their leadership over the last several months – the Ven. Joan Locke for serving as the Acting Archdeacon for Muskoka Deanery; the Rev. Judie Cooper at Good Shepherd Parish and Almaguin; the Ven. Linda White at All Saints' in Huntsville; the Rev's Dr. David and Carol Hardie at All Saints'; the Rev. Chris Davis at St. John's Ravenscliffe, and the Rev. Lynda Mee and Rev. Canon Edna Murdy at Christ Church Port Sydney; the Rev. Mal Binks at Christ Church Windermere; the Rev. Canon Bob Elkin at Emmaus Sault Ste. Marie. Special thanks also to the Rev. Jeff Hooper for his

ongoing ministry at St. Alban the Martyr in Capreol, and to Bishop Thomas Corston for his ministry at the Church of the Epiphany in Sudbury.



Deborah and Jouni Kraft following Thorneloe's Convocation in October when Deborah received an Honourary Doctorate of Sacred Theology. Congratulations!

Communication matters

Over the last couple of months some Algomites have been wondering what has happened to their *Algoma Anglican*. I've been asked about it on parish visits and numbers of parishioners are calling the Synod office with similar questions. We are doing our best to field these questions, assuring enquirers that we remain committed to finding a new editor for the *Algoma Anglican* and having five print editions next year while we work on a new communication strategy in Algoma.

In the meantime, through your own parish communication networks, please ensure that your parishioners are aware that in order to receive diocesan communications they need to register online for the enews or keep checking online. There are numbers of people who do not have access to the internet and are relying on the news being in print version. It is incumbent upon you as leaders to ensure that copies of pertinent news items are made available for your parishioners. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.



**The Rev. Kelly Baetz with her family – Bill, Gregory and Claire (October 2018).
Congratulations on your new appointment as Incumbent of All Saints' Huntsville
and Archdeacon of Muskoka.**

Looking ahead to 2020:

Budget Letter for parishes online/ Important dates

Our treasurer, Jane Mesich has posted the Budget Letter for 2020 online. It can be found on our Diocesan website [here](#).

Incumbents, treasurers, and church wardens will need to read this document carefully in order to prepare the parish budget for next year. You will notice that the minimum stipend has only been increased by 1.0% in 2020. However, self-supporting parishes may pay stipends that are above the minimum and are encouraged to do so.

For those clerics who are on a living allowance, please have your wardens review the rental value of housing for your family in your neighbourhood in order to determine whether your present housing allowance covers the cost of living in that area. If it does

not, please ask the wardens to consider adjusting your living allowance to reflect the fair rental value of housing for your family's needs.

In 2020 there will be four gatherings which the parish should be financially responsible for – Youth Synod (June 28th – July 1st); Lay Readers' Conference (September 25th – 27th – please consider supporting your lay readers), the Clergy Retreat (Cedar Campus, Michigan – May 5th- 7th) and a Special Synod (Sault Ste. Marie - May 8th – 9am to noon). The costs related to each of these are in the Budget Letter.

I have received lots of feedback on the question of holding a Special 'One Item' Synod in May 2020 about same sex marriage in Algoma. I've decided to call a Special Synod right after the May Clergy Retreat – details to follow in the New Year. Regional Gatherings will be held in each deanery ahead of this Synod – more about that in 2020 as well.

Call me a dreamer - then help me make this dream come true!

I can still remember walking into Bishophurst for the first time as bishop -elect of Algoma in November 2016 wondering how I would ever feel at home there, following in the footsteps of Algoma's 10 'giants', my predecessors - Frederick Fauquier, Edward Sullivan, George Thorneloe, Rocksborough Remington Smith, George Kingston, William Lockridge Wright, Frank Nock, Leslie Peterson, Ronald Ferris, and Stephen Andrews.



You see, I'd read Algoma's history, and had served in various capacities with three of Algoma's bishops. I knew from stories and from firsthand experience the enormous contribution to the life and growth of Algoma each one had made, as well as the sacrificial nature of their ministry and the heavy toll the episcopate had taken on them personally. Many of the early bishops spent months away from their families in order to

travel overseas to raise funds when we were a missionary diocese as well as dealing with very trying circumstances in starting churches. All have endured the harshest of weather conditions in order to reach their parishes for episcopal visits; to be a teacher and defender of the faith and to be that symbol of unity in a diocese that is so geographically widespread.

Each of the ten previous bishops had very distinct God-given visions for Algoma in their time, and none were alike in personality. In spite of the differences that existed between them they all had one thing in common. They were dreamers who imagined the gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed in Anglican churches in every community and town from Gravenhurst to Sudbury, North Bay, north to Temiskaming, and then west along the north shore of Superior to Thunder Bay.

As the bishops travelled, they invited clergy and laity to join them in their mission, and through this shared ministry Algoma has seen times of enormous growth and expansion as well as some very challenging and difficult times. Each of my predecessors has left their mark on the diocese, and I am grateful for the rich legacy they have left us.

The names given to our churches tell part of Algoma's story. Some of them are named after 'St. Paul' reminding us of that great apostle and missionary to the gentiles and of the disciples call to keep growing churches. Many others reflect Christ's life and ministry. I think of all the 'Christ Church's' we have in Algoma along with The Epiphany, Ascension, as being central to all ministry, as well as our belief in the triune God – we have several named after the Holy Trinity. Then there are the churches named after the Apostles – James, Thomas, John the Evangelist, and Stephen the first Christian martyr. Our Cathedral church is named after Luke that beloved physician and writer of the third gospel. Not to be forgotten are all the Saints – we can count ourselves among them today.

While the eyes of the bishop are often on very specific tasks of leading a diocese day by day, their eyes were also on the future and planning for that was a big part of their episcopacy. We have all their hopes and dreams written in journals and we see some of it now as we continue the work of strategic plans begun in their day.

I count it a distinct honour to be part of the lineup of Algoma's bishops and am delighted that you are with me in ministry in this moment of our history. There are so many good things happening in our congregations and if I'm ever having a rough day all I have to do is check out one or two of our parish's websites to feel encouraged and uplifted.

If there is one dream that every bishop has, it is that there will always be the office of bishop in their diocese.

My dream and deepest desire is to make this possible by having the office of Bishop of Algoma permanently endowed. We need \$3,000,000.00 to make this a reality and we

already have about \$500,000.00. This will include funding the bishop's stipend, housing and travel.

In six years time, that's 2026, Algoma will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Bishop Fauquier's move into Bishophurst. What if we aimed to have the Bishop's office endowed by then?

A small committee has been established to begin this work and I am hoping that there will be one person in each deanery willing to sit on this committee. We have already come up with several ways in which we will be inviting past bishops and their families, clergy, parishes, and individuals to share in the work of fundraising for this exciting project.

Here is a sampling.

- ❖ Personal visits to Algomites who are already generously supporting the mission and ministry of the diocese.
- ❖ "The Bishop's Fundraising Dinner" will be held in each deanery over the next six years enabling parishioners and their friends the opportunity to come together in fellowship to support the office of bishop. We hope to invite well known Canadians to be guest speakers for these fundraising dinners.
- ❖ Individuals and parishes will be asked to pledge \$50 a month for 50 months. If we got 150 pledges we could raise nearly \$400,000.00.
- ❖ Encourage Legacy giving to the Bishop's Endowment Fund.
- ❖ Parishes making donations through their own fundraising efforts.



The Lay Readers of Algoma gather for their annual Lay Readers Conference at Trinity Parry Sound. We give thanks for the faithfulness of Algoma's Lay Readers.



**Celebration of New Ministry with the Rev. Raymond Knight
and the parishes of Christ Church and St. Peter's, Sault Ste. Marie**



**Celebration of 35 years of ordained ministry for the Rev. Canon Muriel Hornby
Church of the Redeemer, Thessalon – November 17th**

Lambeth 2020

The Lambeth Conference of 2020 takes place in Canterbury from July 23rd to August 4th under the theme “God’s Church for God’s World – Walking, Listening, and Witnessing Together.” Colin and I have registered to attend and we are looking forward to all that we will experience during our time away as we gather with bishops and spouses from 850 different countries in the Anglican Communion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby writes:

“It’s my prayer that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Lambeth Conference will reinvigorate the Communion with the vision and resources to bring the transforming love of Jesus Christ to every level of society across the world”, he said.

It will be a time of addressing hurts and concerns; of deepening existing relationships and building new ones; of grappling with issues that face the Church and the world. We will

listen to each other; we will seek God's wisdom to find ways to walk together; we will build each other up as leaders."



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is preparing for Lambeth 2020

I want to keep you updated on some of the funding related issues that have arisen with respect to Lambeth 2020 and how we are proceeding with them in Algoma. At present about 60% of the dioceses within the Anglican Communion do not have the financial capacity to fund their bishop and spouse to attend. The cost of registration for one person is about \$8900, and that does not include the airfare.

Following the Lambeth Conference in 2008, the members of the House of Bishops in Canada agreed to contribute \$600,000.00 towards the next Lambeth Conference. Half of these funds would go to support a bursary pool for bishops who need financial assistance to attend and half of it would go to 'core funding' for the conference itself. Each diocese was asked to contribute the same proportion as their percentage share of total diocesan proportional giving to General Synod for 2009.

Algoma's share of this over the last ten years was \$19,710 and that has been paid in full. Since then we received a registration fee for us to attend in 2020 and we have paid that also.

General Synod has held onto half the funds submitted by Algoma and has sent us a letter indicating that half of the costs are not required at this time because the conference costs are being recovered by the registration fee. General Synod has asked us to indicate one of the following options:

- Return to Diocese to use for registration for bishop/spouse.
- Use to support Canadian bishops to attend.
- Use to support bursaries for international bishops.

Following consultation with leadership in Algoma and Moosonee, and recognizing our close friendship and sharing in ministry with Bishop Lydia Mamakwa in Mishamakoweesh, we have made the decision to ask that the funds for Algoma (\$9855) and Moosonee (\$2400) be returned to Algoma so that we may fully support Bishop Lydia and her husband and cover all their registration costs in attending Lambeth 2020. We have some other funds earmarked for travel for Bishop Lydia so we will not be drawing from operations to fund this.



Prayers are requested for Pat Brown (Parish of St. Joseph and St. George) as he undergoes immunotherapy treatment for cancer. We ask that you uphold in prayer Pat, his wife, Valerie, and their family and pray for wisdom and compassion for his health care team.

Personal –

Colin has completed two rounds of chemotherapy and will undergo a third during the week of December 10th. He's finding it very tough going and is pretty exhausted. We remain so thankful for the excellent care he is receiving at the Cancer Centre in Sudbury. We are also grateful that I am able to continue with my episcopal responsibilities from Sudbury and for the support and care of our diocesan family.



Synod office closure over the Christmas holiday

The Synod office will be closed from Friday 20th December and reopening on Monday January 6th, 2020. Wishing you and your loved ones all the blessings of this holy season.

+Anne

**The Rev. Charlene with
Canon Justice John deP Wright
Opening Synod 2019 service
St. Luke's Cathedral**



**The Rev. Canon Rudy van der Hiel
Former Incumbent of the Parish of Muskoka
Lakes and Honourary Assistant of the Parish
of St. Stephen**



*Thank you Charlene and
Rudy for your example of
what it is to heed the
call of Jesus.*

Rest in peace dear friends.