

From the Bishop's Desk...

Spring is in the Air!

It's an odd time of year. The weather can't seem to make up its mind. One day it is cold and blustery, the next day the sun is shining, and it feels like Spring is in the air. We start looking for hints of what is to come. Days growing longer, bark on the trees warming up and changing colour as they stir from their winter hibernation. Soon pale green sprouts will be pushing up through the soil, straining to reach the light. So close and yet not quite there.

I don't know about you, but often it is at this time of the year that I think about getting into the corners of my home to clean, purge and declutter. It's not that I particularly enjoy Spring cleaning, but it just seems like the right thing to do. When I had a garden or flower beds, I was eager to start clearing the winter debris and preparing the ground for planting.

Growing up, we would sit at the kitchen table looking at seed catalogues as we waited for the weather to change. We would dream about warm sunny days with tomatoes ripening on the vine, knowing how sweet and tangy they would be when they were ready to be picked. We would bring out the seeds that we had harvested and dried the previous Fall, getting everything organized and ready. It's still too early to start germinating seeds. But right now, all we can do is wait and dream about the possibilities until Spring arrives.

We are approaching the second Sunday in Lent, and we know there are several more weeks to come before we arrive at Holy Week, the cross and then the Resurrection. We want to rush ahead to Easter and the Resurrection because it represents everything that we know about God, who makes all things new. Easter is about new life, growth, and restoration. It is the fulfillment of all things.

But just like the promise of Spring, we can't rush things. Instead, we focus on what we can do in this Season of Lent. It is a time to go deeper into the corners and crevices of our lives. Kind of like a Spring cleaning of the soul. A time for self-reflection and examination.

We might ask ourselves, what is the condition of my relationship with Christ? How am I preparing for whatever God might have instore for my life and the lives of my family and community? What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? How does my faith reflect signs of growth, new life and the promise of God's love for all?

I can't wait for Spring to come, and I watch for the signs of growth and new life that I trust is emerging as we walk this journey of Lent.

In Christ's Service,

+Clara

Bishop's Schedule March/April

March

- Mar 1 – Receiving of the Community of the Cross of Nails liturgy – St. Paul Cathedral 10 am service
- Mar 2 – 5 – Executive Officers Conference – Vancouver
- Mar 8 – 22 – Bishop away – Vacation (Dean Kyle appointed Commissary)
- Mar 24 – Clergy Clericus – 3 pm (Zoom)
- Mar 25 – Provincial Summer Summit Planning Team – 1pm (Zoom)
- Mar 28-29 – St. Andrews/St. Mary's Lillooet – Parish Visit – Palm/Passion Sunday

April

- Apr 1 – 3 – Robson Valley Shared Ministry – Parish Visit – Maundy Thursday & Good Friday
- Apr 5 – All Saints Shulus Parish – Parish Visit – Easter Sunday
- Apr 9 – Provincial House of Bishops (Zoom)
- Apr 14 & 16 – CoGS Planning & Agenda Team mtgs (Zoom)
- Apr 18 – Provincial School for Congregational Development (Zoom)
- Apr 19 – 24 – National House of Bishops – Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls, ON

Prayer Corner



- * We pray for our neighbours, families, and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
- * We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline, and Ernie Michell.
- * We pray for those who are discerning a call to a vocation in the church.
- * We pray for the Diocese of Yukon as they elect their next bishop on March 21st, for candidates and all who will participate in the election.
- * We pray for Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury and for her Installation at Canterbury Cathedral on March 25, 2026, Feast of the Annunciation.
- * We pray for the Council of the North dioceses and their bishops.
- * We pray for the community of Tumbler Ridge, for those who mourn, for those who are recovering from injuries, for the school community, and for first responders.
- * We pray for leaders around the globe as they seek to work for the common good.
- * We pray for all who are confined by illness or isolation, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others.
- * We pray for places in need of peace, especially in the Middle East: Palestine, Israel, Iran, Syria, for Ukraine and Russia.
- * We pray for those who suffer through environmental disasters such as earthquakes, fire, floods and cyclones, especially for Mozambique and Madagascar.
- * We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (Isa 61:11)

News Around the Territory

Celebrating the Ordination of the Rev. (Deacon) Karen Dougan!

On the 2nd day of February 2026 on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Territory gathered at St. Michael and All Angels in Prince George to witness the ordination of Karen Dougan to Holy Order of Deacons. Both family, friends and parishioners from various nearby parishes joined the St. Michael's community for the occasion. It was a joyful day filled with the Spirit! Bishop Clara spoke during her sermon about the ministry role of a deacon and how the church is complete when all vocations are present and active in the life of the church. Rev. Karen is licensed to the bishop and appointed to the parish of St. Michael and All Angels. A collection was taken up during the offertory. A total donation of \$392 was put towards the Territory Theological Education fund.



Community of the Cross of Nails arrives in the Territory

Join Bishop Clara and the St. Paul Cathedral community on March 1st during the 10 am Sunday service where the Territory of the People will receive their Cross of Nails from the Coventry Community of the Cross of Nails. We will welcome the Rev. Michael Shapcott, Co-Chair of the North American Network of the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) partners, who will lead us through a liturgy of receiving the Cross of Nails. To learn more about the Community of the Cross of Nails: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails>.

At our 2024 Assembly in Williams Lake B.C., we collectively endorsed becoming a CCN partner with a commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. They do this through seeking to heal the wounds of history, learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity and building a culture of justice and peace.

We are grateful to be receiving this symbol of the Cross of Nails that will travel throughout the Territory as a visible reminder of our shared work of peace, justice, and reconciliation. The March 1st service will be live streamed on the "St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops BC" Facebook page, and will also be available as a recorded video on the "St Pauls Cathedral Kamloops" YouTube channel.



Annual Meetings Season

Parishes have been busy hosting their Annual Meetings, reporting on the ministry and activities of the past year and to elect new leadership members to serve as wardens, treasurers, Assembly delegates, and parish committee/council members. The leadership and oversight of parishes is important to ensure that a parish is thriving and focussed on the vision and mission of their community.

We offer gratitude and thanksgiving for outgoing wardens, treasurers and parish committee/council members. We congratulate and pray for new wardens, treasurers and parish committee/council members as they serve in their parishes. We congratulate all newly elected Assembly delegates who will gather at the 2026 Assembly in Quesnel May 29-31st.

*O Holy One, guide all our Assembly delegates and our Parish Committees/Councils members, that those called to serve in these responsibilities may be people living a holy life, seeking to be in your will, able to overcome prejudices, examining issues with care, and that the decisions of Assembly and our Parish Committees/Councils may be to the building up of your church and to your glory.
May we be truly unified as one under Christ.*

For A Church Alive To The Lord

O God, we get so caught up with the programs, with the buildings, with raising the finances, with restructuring and with endless sheets of paper.

Forgive us when we make these things our priority and ignore your presence.

May our priority be to live Christ-like lives and as we look to you in prayer may our words and deeds be a witness to your glory.

Other News

An unexpected blessing from beyond the Territory. An email came in this past week with this lovely prayer message from a member of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration Dallas, Texas.

Dear Bishop Clara,

This morning I am praying for you, your congregations, priests and deacons in the Diocese of the Territory of the People, Canada.

May God abundantly bless you and grant you wisdom to lead His children according to His Will.

I thank God for your ministry and pray He fills you with His Holy Spirit each and every moment of each day.

I pray for clean water, healthy food, adequate shelter and clothing, proper medical care, educational opportunities and freedom from poverty for all people in your diocese.

I pray God comforts and heals those who suffer from sickness, pain or sorrow of body, mind or spirit.

I pray God protects you from all harm and surrounds you with His unfailing, unconditional Love.

May His Peace always be alive in you.

Amen!

Your sister in Christ,

Sherrie Abney

Member of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration Dallas, Texas USA

Around the Territory

For more news check our website out at <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/>

