

# Canadian Martyrs Church

100 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2

613-232-5347, [office@canadianmartyrs.org](mailto:office@canadianmartyrs.org), [www.canadianmartyrs.org](http://www.canadianmartyrs.org)

*Our community respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded ancestral lands and waters of the Algonquin people, on whose territory we live, pray, work, and grow in faith and understanding.*

## Mass Schedule

Tuesday-Friday at 11:30am

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 10:00am

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday-Friday at 10:45am

Saturday at 4:15pm

or call the office

## Pastor

Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI

## Administrative Assistant

Heather Duggan

## Pastoral Associate

Sr. Matilda Owolagba

## Director of Religious Ed.

Adele Casuga Lalonde

## Pastoral Council

Sue-Anne Hess

Meetings: 1st Thurs., 7:00pm

## Finance Committee

Joseph Duggan

## Development and Peace

Contact office

## Weekly Gatherings

### Christian Meditation

Dorothy Wood

Mondays, 3pm

### Lectio Divina and Meditation

Maureen Cerroni

Tuesdays, 8pm

### Evening Prayer

Pierre LaViolette

Thursdays, 6:30pm

### Sunday Liturgy of the Word

Sundays, 11:30am

[Via Zoom](#)

## 6th Sunday of Easter

May 13/14, 2023



## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, that we may grow in our awareness that Christ is in us, and take the time to reflect on the commandments and teachings of Jesus and work to apply them to how we live our daily lives, we pray to the Lord.

For all researchers, that God will inspire and guide all who are working to defeat disease or promote harmony between humans and the created world, we pray to the Lord.

For everyone working towards reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, that they are gifted with an understanding of authentic and meaningful action, we pray to the Lord.

For all those who act as mothers, that their gifts of love without question and support without faltering are recognized and cherished, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us, that we can follow the example of Mary, Jesus' mother, that we conduct ourselves with grace in the face of societal censorship and with strength in the face of profound sorrow and loss, we pray to the Lord.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Carol Bazinet, Isabella Boles, Devin Bursey, Sandy Cano, Frank Chauvin, Kevin Dashney, Eileen De Rosayro, Ken Hart, Eileen Kearns, Sharon Kelly, and Marigold Kenney

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat., May 13** In thanksgiving by Janet Kasiban; **Tues., May 16** Pasquale Cotroneo by Lidia Cotroneo; **Thurs., May 18** Mr. and Mrs. Tony Brennan and Barbara by their family

Mass intentions are available for weekday Masses and Saturday Mass for a \$15.00 stipend. Please contact the parish office.

# Our Parish News

## LUNCH AND LEARN RETURNS MAY 21

The Faith Formation Committee is proud to announce that after 3 long years, “Lunch & Learn” is BACK! Come join us after Sunday Mass on **May 21** for a viewing of *The Letter*. This film tells the story of a journey of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, with Pope Francis in Rome. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome. *Laudato Si'* encourages us to see how “everything is connected.” The way we treat the Earth, our common home, is a reflection of how we treat each other. Caring for each other means caring for the home we share.

## THE EPISTLE NEWSLETTER

Do you or your Parish committee or group have information or thoughts to share in *The Epistle*? Send your articles and photos to [office@canadianmartyrs.org](mailto:office@canadianmartyrs.org) by **May 19** for our Pentecost 2023 issue.

## LE CENTRE OBLAT: A VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Since February 2019, the three Oblate provinces in Canada have established a collaborative ministry called Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice. The Oblates prioritized work in four areas: ecological justice, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, solutions to poverty, and challenging unjust practices of some Canadian extractive industries in countries of the Global South. If you would like to receive the Centre’s bilingual, bi-weekly electronic newsletter (monthly during the summer months), simply send a request to [centreoblat@omilacombe.ca](mailto:centreoblat@omilacombe.ca).

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The Pastoral Parish Council and the Pastoral Team sincerely appreciate all the volunteers who devote their time and energy to make our parish such a strong community. In appreciation for the work done by our volunteers, there will be a special blessing for all our volunteers at the Masses on weekend of June 10/11 with a special reception to follow the Mass on Sunday, **June 11**.

## STAMPS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The stamps affixed on the right corner of your envelopes can be very useful. Members of Development and Peace, who are philatelists, will sell them to stamp collectors. The proceeds will help fund development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. If you wish to support this initiative, simply cut off the stamps from your envelopes

without damaging perforations and put them in the bag on the D&P table.

## MILK BAGS

We continue to collect milk bags (the outer colourful ones) that are then crocheted into sleeping mats. Help keep plastic out of landfill sites and provide a sleeping surface for those in developing countries. You can drop off your milk bags in the baskets in the church foyer.

## VOCATION REFLECTION

“Called to Mission”

by Richard Beaudette, OMI, Vocation Team

In the Gospel, as Jesus hands on his mission, he assures the disciples, and us, that we will be given the gift of the Holy Spirit to assist and guide us in our mission and that he, himself, is with us on this journey. If we remain open to the prompting of the Spirit, our discipleship can take on a totally different direction, a direction quite outside our expectations, plans or dreams. This might be a call to get involved in a particular ministry in our parish community, or to respond to a social need in the larger community. It might call us to focus our energy on a cause that may not have been on our radar up to that point or take time to learn a new skill to enable us to respond to particular needs. The Spirit will often surprise us, because we tend to have a narrowed vision or focus to discipleship. The readings this week challenge us to consider new possibilities, and like Philip, dare to set out on a new journey, a new direction. Where is the Spirit calling you today?

Read [the full reflection here](#).

## OBLATE SPIRIT MAGAZINE

This issue represents a significant change for OMI Lacombe MAMI as this will be one of two issues that will be distributed electronically in order to reduce printing costs. You are welcome to read the May 2023 *Oblate Spirit* by [clicking here](#).

## MEETINGS/EVENTS

**May 14:** Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 10am

**May 21:** Lunch and Learn, 11:30am

**May 28:** Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 10am

**June 3:** The Shadow of Wardship, 10am

**June 11:** Volunteer appreciation, after 10am Mass

# Diocesan and Community News

## DREAM LEBRETON FLATS

The Ottawa Central Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul has undertaken a project to provide safe, secure affordable housing for four to six low-income Indigenous families in Ottawa. They intend to raise between \$250,000 and \$300,000 for down payments on housing units for this Dream Lebreton project. This project is in cooperation with the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI). Bishop Marcel Dampousse supports this project which will also require support from the wider Catholic community.

**If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to this housing project, please [click here](#) and under “Please direct my donation to:” select Ottawa Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) or buy tickets in the [Catch the Ace fundraiser](#).**

## CONCERT TO SUPPORT THE OTTAWA MISSION

This concert in support of the Ottawa Mission will feature music by Handel, Fauré, Mozart and Vivancos, performed by Patricia Beckett, soprano, and Frederic Lacroix on piano. The event will be held at St. Andrew’s Church, 82 Kent Street, on Sunday, **May 21** at 2pm. A freewill offering will be collected.

## PENTECOST RETREAT 2023

This retreat at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 194 Fourth Ave, includes special guest, Bryan O’Donnell, from Urban Encounter Ministries in Columbus, Ohio. The Pentecost Vigil Mass on Saturday will be celebrated by Archbishop Dampousse. Concluded on Sunday with a Healing Service with Fr. Ken Lao, CC.

**Friday, May 26 - Sunday, May 28**, \$35/person or \$60/ couple, includes 2 meals. To register, [click here](#) or (613) 314-3715.

## THE CHURCH AND TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Free webinar on Saturday, **May 27** at 2pm with Fr. Daryold Winkler and Peter Bisson SJ. that will reflect on the challenges of reconciliation, the after-effects of the Doctrine of Discovery and of Canada’s assimilation policies on Indigenous peoples, ongoing obstacles to reconciliation, as well as opportunities to advance it. Visit [concernedlaycatholics.ca](http://concernedlaycatholics.ca) to register.

## MHI TULIPATHON

May has come again, and with it comes the annual Tulipathon to raise funds in support of Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI). MHI currently has 179 units housing 300-400 tenants who were in danger of becoming homeless. With two new projects in the planning stages, that number will double in the next few years. [Online fundraising](#) continues to June 30. Sunday, **May 29** at 2pm is the Tulipathon Celebration Walk at Dow’s Lake. Join the walk or donate to support affordable housing in Ottawa.

## PLANT SALE

First Baptist Church, 140 Laurier Ave. W. will be holding a plant sale on Saturday, **June 3** from 10am to noon. Proceeds will go toward local refugee support.

## 149th ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

After a long 3 years, the 149th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré and Our Lady of the Cape is resuming with buses that will depart from the Dioceses of Ottawa-Cornwall, Gatineau, Pembroke, St-Jérôme/Mont-Laurier and Kingston on **August 12-13**. The weekend celebrant is Bishop Guy Desrochers, Diocese of Pembroke. Info: 613-224-8110, [mike.budge@bell.net](mailto:mike.budge@bell.net), [www.ste-anne-de-beaupre.com](http://www.ste-anne-de-beaupre.com)

# Events at Galilee Centre, Arnprior

**May 25-27:** *Opening to Goodness* Spring Retreat

**June 22:** BBQ Summer Luncheon, Reservations Required

**July 1:** Strawberry Social, 1pm

Reservations not required

**August 20-27:** 7-day Directed Retreat

**September 15-17:** Ron Rolheiser Retreat

More information coming soon. Click here to [pre-register](#).

**To register** for events at Galilee Centre, 398 John Street, North, Arnprior ON, call 613-623-4242, ext. 21 or email [info@galileecentre.com](mailto:info@galileecentre.com).

For info and cost of programs:

[www.galileecentre.com](http://www.galileecentre.com).



**Our Struggle in Faith—  
Between Knowing It Is True and Believing It!**  
by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

At the heart of our faith lies the deep truth that we are unconditionally loved by God. We believe that God looks down on our lives and says: You are my beloved child, in you I take delight! We do not doubt the truth of that; we just find it impossible to believe. Some years ago, at a workshop, a woman came up to me during the break and articulated it in these words: “God loves me unconditionally. I know that’s true, but I how can I make myself believe it? I simply can’t!” She could have been speaking for half of the human race. We know we are loved by God, we can say the words, but how do we make ourselves believe that?

Why is that so difficult to believe? What shatters our illusion of love is the presence in our lives of people who hate us. For many reasons, though mostly because (unless we are extraordinarily blessed) we rarely, if ever, experience unconditional love. Mostly, we experience love with conditions, even from those closest to us: Our parents love us better when we do not mess up. Our teachers love us better when we behave and perform well. Our churches love us better when we do not sin. Friends love us better when we are successful and not needy. The world loves us better when we are attractive. Our spouses love us better when we do not disappoint them. Mostly, in this world, we have to measure up in some way to be loved. Moreover, many of us, too, have been wounded by supposed expressions of love that were not love at all, but were instead expressions of self-serving manipulation, exploitation, or even abuse. Beyond even this, all of us have been cursed and shamed in our enthusiasm by the countless times someone, in effect has said to us: Who do you think you are? We wither under that and become the walking wounded, unable to believe that we are loved and loveable. So, even when we know that God loves us, how can we make ourselves believe it?

At one level, we do believe it. Deep down, below our wounded parts, the child of God, that still inhabits the recesses of our soul, knows that they are made in God’s image and likeness and is special, beautiful, and loveable. That is why we so easily become angry and enraged whenever someone violates our dignity or puts us down. But, how do we make ourselves believe that we are unconditionally loved in a way that would make us less insecure in our attitude and our actions? How do we live in a surer confidence that we are unconditionally loved so as to let that radiate in the way we treat others and ourselves?

There are no easy answers. For a wounded soul, like for a wounded body, there are no magic wands for quick, easy healings. Biblically, however, there is an image that, while confusing on the surface, addresses this: When God gives Joshua instructions on how to move into the Promised Land, he tells him that, once there, he must “kill” everything there, all the men, women, children, and even the animals. Taken literally, this text is horrible and speaks about everything that God is not. Yet this is not a literal text, but an archetypal one. It is an image, a metaphor. I suspect that someone in an Alcoholics Anonymous program will more easily get its message: Killing all the inhabitants of Canaan means precisely giving away all the bottles in your liquor cabinet—the scotch, the bourbon, the wine, the cognac, the gin, the beer, the vodka, and everything else that’s there. You can’t take the Promised Land and still keep a few “Canaanites” on the side or you will soon lose the Promised Land.

That image also tells us what we must do to enter our true self-image, the deep truth that we are unconditionally loved by God. In great mythical literature we see that, usually, before the great wedding, where the young prince and the young princess are to be married so as to live happily ever after, there first has to be an execution: The wicked older brothers and the wicked step-sisters have to be killed off. Why? Because they would eventually come and spoil the wedding. Who are those wicked older brothers and wicked step-sisters? They are not different people from the young prince or princess getting married. They are their older incarnations. They are also inside of us. They are the inner voices from our past that can, at any given moment, ruin our wedding or our self-image by dragging in our past humiliations and say: “Who do you think you are? Do you really think that you can marry a prince or princess? Do you really think that you’re loveable? We know you, we know your past, so don’t delude yourself!”

To actually believe that we are unconditionally loved, we first have to kill a few “Canaanites.”

### **MONTH OF MARY PRAYER**

“Mary, teach us to stop being self-centred and to take an interest in those around us, by welcoming them and loving them. We are members of the body of Christ: help us to give Christ to others, as you did for your cousin, Elizabeth.”





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Parishioners can now quickly donate to the church with their mobile devices. Just scan the QR code and donate securely through the parish's Canada Helps page.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** The registration form is available at the back of the church or can be filled out online at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/register/>.

**DONATIONS:** PAD forms are available on the Welcome table if you wish to make donations to the church through direct deposit. If you wish to donate via credit card, you can through Canada Helps on the secure link at <https://canadianmartyrs.org/donate/>. Please call the office if you would like a box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:** Please call or email the office to inform us of shut-ins or people in hospital so that we can arrange a visit, bring Holy Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Sick if desired.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** Contact the office a minimum of 3 months before the baptism. Baptismal instructions are required.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** Contact the office to set up the initial interview. It is recommended that the first contact be a minimum of 6 months before the wedding.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES:** The minutes of Pastoral Council meetings are available at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/pastoral-council-minutes/>

**FOOD CUPBOARD:** Non-perishable food items for the Centretown Community Food Centre are collected on an on-going basis. Please place food items in the crates in the church foyer.

**MILK BAGS:** Milk bags are collected for making into sleeping mats. Please bring in your milk bags (outer coloured bag) and put them in the baskets under the table in the hall near the breezeway.