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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update April 2019

### NEWS FOR APRIL 2019

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#### **1. Please submit Vestry Motion response.**

Nearly 50 parishes in our Diocese have already indicated their passage of this year's Social Justice Vestry Motion, "Standing in Solidarity." It has been wonderful to see the range of creative ideas and renewed interest in outreach and advocacy expressed across our Diocese. If you have not already done so, please send a copy of the motion as passed by your parish's Vestry to [egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca)

**2. Have your say on Waste Reduction (till April 20)** Concerned about the amount of plastic pollution? Think producers should be responsible for the waste created by their products and packaging? The provincial government is seeking public input on these and other topics in its Discussion Paper on Reducing Litter and Waste in our Communities. You can read the paper and submit your comments [here](#). The deadline for comment is just before midnight on Saturday, April 20.

**3. Final push for Bill C-262.** Bill C-262, an Act to Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, has passed through the House of Commons and is now in Second Reading in the Senate. Implementation of the UN Declaration is one of the key Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and was the subject of our Social Justice Vestry Motion in 2017. Anglicans and other church leaders across Canada have been advocating for the passage of this Bill, which will die on the order paper if it is not passed before Parliament is dissolved for the federal election. Our ecumenical partners at KAIROS have prepared a [new, urgent message to Senators](#) urging them to support this Bill

- please sign today!

**4. Peel Lived Experience Table, April 4 and 11.** The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy (PPRS) is launching a table for residents of Peel with lived experience of poverty. It is their aim to equip, mobilize and empower this group to be champions for change and to bring awareness to an issue which affects over 12.8% of Peel's population. Peel residents with lived experience of poverty are invited to attend one of two information sessions: **Thursday, April 4 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre, 1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd, or Thursday, April 11 at Regeneration Brampton, 156 Main St. N., Brampton.**

To register, e-mail [poverty@peelregion.ca](mailto:poverty@peelregion.ca) or telephone 905-791-7800, ext. 8782.

**3. Good Friday Ecumenical Walk for Justice, April 19 (Toronto)** The 40th annual Good Friday Ecumenical Walk for Justice begins at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square, Toronto, at 2 p.m. on Good Friday, April 19. The walk processes through several stations, connecting present-day injustices with the suffering and death of Jesus, before returning to Holy Trinity for a simple common meal. All are welcome.

**4. Earth Sunday and other Environmental resources.** The Creation Matters committee has produced a number of resources to help you and your parish observe a "Green Lent" and celebrate Earth Sunday in Eastertide. (Lectionary reflections for Earth Sunday will be posted by April 5, 2019). Our new Policy Paper on Environmental Issues, recently received by Diocesan Council, and a reflection paper, "World of Wonder," from the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, are also available on our Environmental Resources [page](#).

**5. York-Simcoe Advocacy Workshops, April 25 and 27 (Orillia/Georgina.)**

A number of parishes are responding to this year's Vestry Motion by hosting workshops exploring the connection between outreach and advocacy, and how advocacy is a part of our church's public witness. Elin Goulden will be presenting two such workshops in the York-Simcoe area this month. Both are free and open to neighbouring parishes. Please RSVP so we can plan for numbers.

- Thurs. April 25/19, 10 a.m. - noon, at St. James, Orillia, 58 Peter St., Orillia "Charity with Justice". To RSVP please contact [Maryan Vincent](#).
- Sat., April 27/19, 10 a.m. - noon, St. James, Sutton (Parish of Georgina), 31 River St., Sutton, ON, "Advocacy: What, Why, and How." To RSVP please contact the [Rev. Deacon Nancy Glover](#).

**6. Voices for Peace Conference, April 27, 2019 (Toronto)** Voices for Peace is a one-day conference on peacemaking, steeped in the spirituality of Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen, which will be held Saturday, April 27 at the Henri Nouwen Centre, 95 St. Joseph St., Toronto. It is co-hosted by the Henri Nouwen Centre, the Basilian Centre for Peace and Justice, and Church of the Redeemer. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. For more information, and for tickets, please follow this [link](#).

**7. Registration OPEN for Respect Justice Camp, August 13-19, 2019**

Registration is now [open](#) for Respect Justice Camp, a week of intensive theological engagement and immersive learning for Anglicans aged 18 and up, hosted by the Diocese of Huron from August 13-19 in Windsor, ON. The cost of \$450 includes accommodation (at St. Clair College), food, and all programming for the week. Some financial assistance may be available to reduce barriers to participation.

**8. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

**April 7, Lent 5 - *Pray for*** St. Barnabas, Chester, its participation in the interfaith "Chew on This" initiative, Prayer Shawl ministry, support of Kennedy House Youth Centre; provision of space for new and emerging musicians and its support of local artists through

hosting the Riverdale Art Show, and refugee sponsorship;  
*for* St. Barnabas and St. John, Peterborough, its garden club, its management of the City of Peterborough's Warming Room, its One Roof dinner every Monday to Friday, its support of the St. John Centre housing for seniors, and advocacy for social justice.  
*and for* St. Bartholomew, Toronto, its breakfast and after-school programs, food bank, and Prayer Walk initiative, and refugee sponsorship.

**April 14, Palm/Passion Sunday** - *Pray for* St. Bede, Scarborough, its support of Bluffs food bank, Christmas outreach programs, and education and advocacy initiatives;  
*for* St. Bride, Clarkson, its involvement in the Caring and Sharing network, Compass community centre and food bank, and Community Church Volunteers, and its support of Hands Across the Nation outreach in developing countries;  
*and for* St. Chad, Toronto, and its monthly community supper.

**April 21, Easter Sunday** - *Pray for* St. Christopher, Richmond Hill, and its community environmental stewardship programs;  
*for* St. Clement, Eglinton, its weekly community lunch program, scholarship programs in Haiti, refugee sponsorship, its partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and support of the Flemingdon Park community centre and food bank;  
*and for* St. Cuthbert, Leaside, its refugee sponsorship, support of Flemingdon Park, New Circles Community Services, Moorelands Community Services, Emily's House Hospice, its community garden, and the education and action undertaken by the Environmental Study Group.

**April 28, Easter 2** - *Pray for* St. Cyprian, its support of Neighbour Link community services, the Mission to Seafarers, Flemingdon Park ministry, community garden, and other local and global outreach;  
*for* St. David, Donlands, its Open Door weekly parent and caregiver drop-in, art classes for youth and community performing arts events, food garden, support of St. Monica's Food Bank and Eastview Community Centre's food access programs, and refugee sponsorship;  
*and for* St. David Anglican-Lutheran Church, Orillia, its community breakfast program, community garden, Harmony Centre, Route 66 weekly Kids' Club, and its support of Jubilee House and the Pikangikum Water Project.

For more information about social justice activities across the diocese, to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, or to share information on events, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below. If you would like to receive more frequent updates on our activities, consider liking our [Facebook page](#).

In faithful witness,  
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