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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update November 2019

NEWS FOR

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1. Toronto residents: have your say on environmental issues! The City of Toronto is conducting two surveys whose deadlines are fast approaching. The first, whose deadline is **November 4**, is a survey on [reducing single-use and takeaway items](#) (primarily plastics). The second, whose deadline is **November 11**, is a survey regarding the [implementation of TransformTO](#) (the city's climate change action plan) from 2021-23.

2. Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2020: Taking Action on Climate. The Diocesan College of Bishops has approved a motion on climate change for consideration at parish vestry meetings in 2020. This year's motion calls for the federal government to take meaningful climate action, and also invites parishes to consider how they can boost efforts to lower their own carbon footprint. (see the Faith & the Common Good webinar, noted below) The motion, together with a backgrounder on the issue, is available on the [Diocesan website](#).

3. See you at Synod! Clergy and lay Synod reps are invited to stop by the Social Justice & Advocacy table at Diocesan Synod, November 8-9. Grab a tasty snack, pick up a copy of the new Vestry Motion and/or the update Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle, and talk to us about how we might help your parish grow in faithful action for the love of God's world.

4. Events this month:

- **Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts** will be screened at St. Mary, Richmond Hill (10030 Yonge St.) on **Saturday, November 2 at 12:30 p.m.**, with discussion to follow, facilitated by St. Mary's Outreach & Social Justice

Committee. Free, but space is limited; please pre-register with Lyne Webb at lyne6053@gmail.com or call 905-726-4130.

- **Canada's Future: Reaching for the Common Good** is the first in a series of conversations in honour of the late Dr. Christopher Lind. It will be hosted by the Church of the Holy Trinity (10 Trinity Square, Toronto) on **Saturday, November 2 at 7 p.m.** Featuring panellists Mary Jo Leddy, Emily Lind and Armine Yalnizyan and moderated by former City Councillor Joe Mihevc, the event will also give audience members an opportunity to participate in the conversation. Free, but all attendees are asked to [register](#).
- **Rally to Support Refugees: Monday, November 4 at 12:30 p.m.** From November 4-8, 2019, the Federal Court of Canada will hear a challenge to the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S. Under the agreement, people seeking asylum in Canada who present themselves at a Canada-U.S. border crossing are be turned back to the U.S.. Increasingly, such individuals face detention and deportation to potential persecution and death, which has resulted in significant numbers of refugee claimants attempting irregular border crossings. Advocates including Amnesty International, the Canadian Council for Refugees, Citizens for Public Justice and the Canadian Council of Churches have long called for an end to the Safe Third Country Agreement. A rally in support of this challenge will be held Monday, November 4 at 12:30 p.m. outside the Federal Court Building at 180 Queen St. W., Toronto.
- **Lighting Retrofit Webinar: On Wednesday, November 20 at 11 a.m.,** Faith & the Common Good will host a free one-hour webinar on lighting retrofits This webinar, which will look at the case study of Runnymede United Church, is useful for churchwardens and parish property managers who want to know which projects to choose, which ones will pay for themselves in a few years and which will not, and the impact of these projects on greenhouse gas emissions. [Register](#) now!
- **ISARC Religious Leaders' Forum, Wednesday, November 27, Queen's Park, Toronto.** The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, of which our Diocese is a member, is hosting its annual Religious Leaders' Forum at Queen's Park on the theme of "Marginalized Ontario: Listening to Our Neighbours." The event will feature a theological reflection, reports from hearings in Peterborough, Kingston and Niagara, an opportunity to hear directly from people living on low income in Toronto, and discussion of next steps for advocacy. The [registration](#) cost of \$40 (\$25 students) includes lunch.
- **Filling the Hungry with Good Things: An Advent Social Justice Retreat** will be held **Saturday, November 30, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon at St. Philip's, Etobicoke** (31 St. Phillip's Rd., Toronto.) Fr. Don Beyers, York-Credit Valley Social Justice Officer, will lead a time of reflection, prayer and discussion of the social justice themes of Advent, as seen through Mary's Magnificat. All are welcome to this free event; please [register](#) to assist in planning.

5. Outreach Conference Keynote Available: Thea Prescod's keynote address from our recent Diocesan Outreach & Advocacy Conference, "Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope," is now available on the [Diocesan website](#).

6. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle: Please note that the Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle is currently being updated for 2019-2020. If you have updates for your parish, please send them to egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca by **Monday, November 4, 2019.**

November 3, Pentecost 21 (or All Saints) - Pray for St. Timothy, Agincourt, its involvement with weekly hot lunch and breakfast programs and an Out of the Cold program, and its support of the Agincourt Community Services Association, Stephen Lewis Foundation, and other local, national and international outreach programs; *and for* St. Timothy, North Toronto, its monthly community lunches, monthly dinners at St. George House, support of services including Moorelands Community Services, The Stop

Community Food Centre, the Pikangikum Water Project, and a school and rehabilitation centre in Malawi.

November 10, Pentecost 22 / Remembrance - *Pray for* the Sisters of Saint John the Divine, their ministry of intentional prayer and support for the outreach and advocacy work of the Diocese, and their provision of pastoral care to St. John's Rehab Hospital; *and for* the Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto, its drop-in for children and their caregivers, its participation in Meals on Wheels and Blythwood Out of the Cold, and its native plant garden.

November 17, Pentecost 23 - *Pray for* Trinity, Aurora, its "Clothes Closet" second-hand store, weekly "Welcome Table" community meal, involvement in a refugee sponsorship, participation in a campaign to provide clean and accessible water to First Nations communities, and education projects on Indigenous issues; *for* Trinity, Barrie, its support for the David Busby Centre, "Bucket Brigade" for the Women and Children's Shelter, Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County, and participation in community meal programs through the local Salvation Army; *and for* Trinity, Bradford, its involvement in a local food bank and community supper, and its second-hand shop.

November 24, Reign of Christ - *Pray for* Trinity East (Little Trinity), Toronto, its refugee sponsorship, biweekly Coffee Time neighbourhood outreach, and discernment of how the parish can further support its local community; *for* Trinity-St Paul, Port Credit, and its program providing fruit, groceries, and skate and swim passes for children at a local school; *and for* Trinity, Streetsville, its support of Christians Against Poverty, its COPING bereavement group, ESL program, and its new Green committee.

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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