

A Joint Service of Worship to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Canada

A liturgical celebration to mark forty years of Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Canada will take place on Sunday, November 13, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the basilica of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Montreal, Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, and the Anglican Bishop of Montreal, the Rt. Rev. Barry Clarke, will co-preside. The liturgy will include the participation of several bishops from both communions, as well as past and present members of the ARC Canada dialogue. All the faithful are welcome to join in this celebration.

The liturgy is an adaptation of the service of evening prayer, common to Catholics (as vespers) and Anglicans (as evensong) alike. The spoken-word parts assigned to "lectors" are drawn from theological agreed statements between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church, most especially Growing Together in Unity and Mission, issued in 2007 by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission. They highlight the remarkable degree of convergence our communions have reached in several important areas.

While the November event in Montreal will be the formal, national celebration of Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue in this country, local churches across Canada are encouraged to hold their own liturgical celebrations of this milestone in ecumenical relations. As an aid to such celebrations, below is the outline of the liturgy to be celebrated at St. Joseph's Oratory, prepared by ARC members Bishop Donald Bolen, Father Luis M. Melo, S.M., and Archdeacon Bruce Myers. Local communities and liturgical planners are welcome to adapt the service to their needs or context, or to use only those parts which seem most suitable.

As a prelude plays, the ministers of the liturgy process into the chancel.

Presider O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;

People **Hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Presider Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,

People **The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Phos Hilaron *(sung by choir as individuals' tapers are lit)*

Remembrance of Baptism

Lector Anglicans and Roman Catholics agree that they receive one baptism, administered with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We do this in obedience to the command of the risen Lord. We consider baptism a sacrament of initiation instituted by Jesus Christ, by which we are incorporated into the life of his body, the Church. Baptism is

the sacrament of faith, through which a person embraces the faith of the Church and is embraced by it.

The Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church recognise the baptism each confers. Anglicans and Catholics therefore regard our common baptism as the basic bond of unity between us, even as we recognise that the fullness of eucharistic communion to which baptism should lead is impeded by disagreement concerning some of the elements of faith and practice which we acknowledge are necessary for full, visible communion.

Nevertheless, we recognise that this incompleteness constitutes an imperative: Anglicans and Catholics are committed to overcoming by God's grace all the divisions that still hinder the fullness of eucharistic and ecclesial communion. Our fundamental baptismal communion gives us the shared responsibility to witness as fully as possible to the Gospel of Christ before the world and to show forth the new life lived by the body of Christ, with the liberation and renewal it brings.

Presider When we were joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

Water is poured into the font.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presiders We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight. You led Israel safely through the Red Sea into the land of promise, and in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus your beloved one.

By water and the Spirit you adopted us as your sons and daughters, making us heirs of the promise and servants of God. Through this water remind us of our baptism. Shower us with your Spirit, that your forgiveness, grace and love may be renewed in our lives. To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn (*sung by all while those gathered are sprinkled with water*)

Proclamation of the Word

Lector Anglicans and Roman Catholics agree that the revealed Word is received and communicated through the life of the whole Christian community. Since the Holy Spirit is given to all the people of God, it is within the Church as a whole that the living memory of the faith is active.

We exist as Christians by the Tradition of the Gospel, testified in Scripture, transmitted in and by the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. Within Tradition the Scriptures occupy a unique and normative place and belong to what has been given once for all.

Psalm 133

Gospel reading: Luke 24:13-35 (*The disciples on the road to Emmaus*)

Sermon or reflection

Musical interlude

Affirmation of Faith

Lector Together the Roman Catholic Church and the Churches of the Anglican Communion believe that Christian life is begun in the waters of Baptism. We agree that this sacrament involves a threefold profession of faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Most Holy Trinity.

The threefold profession, both at Baptism and also on those great occasions, above all at Easter, when baptismal promises are renewed, corresponds to the three clauses of the Apostles' Creed. Our full recognition of one another's Baptism is itself the basis of the growing communion between us.

Presider Let us therefore together affirm the faith of our common Baptism.
Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God,
The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

All

Amen.

Magnificat

Lector

All generations of Anglicans and Roman Catholics have called the Virgin Mary 'blessed'. Anglicans and Roman Catholics agree that it is impossible to be faithful to Scripture without giving due attention to the person of Mary. We agree that there can be but one mediator between God and humanity, Jesus Christ, and reject any interpretation of the role of Mary which obscures this affirmation.

We agree in recognising that Christian understanding of Mary is inseparably linked with the doctrines of Christ and of the Church. Catholics and Anglicans recognise the grace and unique vocation of Mary, Mother of God Incarnate, observe her festivals, and accord her honour in the communion of saints. We agree in recognising in Mary a model of holiness, obedience and faith for all Christians and for the Church.

The Magnificat is sung as the altar is censed.

Litany of Thanksgiving

Presiders

We are mindful that the Holy Spirit has been profoundly at work in healing our divisions and restoring our relations over the past forty years. We have not always been open to the leadings of the Spirit. We gather today knowing that still more could have been possible. We seek pardon from God, and from each other, for not reaching out more generously in love, not listening more attentively, not imagining more creatively, not trusting the Spirit's work in each other with greater confidence.

Nevertheless, we rejoice in all that has been achieved and all that has been renewed, and in the close relationships that have been established during these past four decades. Therefore let us give thanks to the Lord.

Litanist

For the many good fruits of forty years of theological dialogue between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Catholic Church in this country...

People

We give you thanks, O God.

Litanist

For the international dialogue between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church, and for consensus and convergences reached in its agreed statements...

People

We give you thanks, O God.

Litanist

For the Canadians who have played a pioneering role in our dialogues both internationally and nationally, remembering especially Jean-Marie Tillard, Eugene Fairweather, Irenée Beaubien, John Baycroft, and Margaret O'Gara...

People

We give you thanks, O God.

Litanist For the Canadian Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops' Dialogue, and for the warm friendship, clear and honest communication, and common witness it has fostered...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Litanist For the gift of recognizing each other's baptisms, and for the ways in which we have increasingly recognized how members of both our churches are immersed in the life and death and resurrection of Christ, as we live our discipleship of Jesus on the way together...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Litanist For the common lectionary, which draws us closer in in the proclamation of the word of God, and for the many shared liturgical traditions and resources that shape our lives of prayer...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Litanist For the ways in which inter-church families have blessed our churches, and for greater pastoral attentiveness to the gifts and challenges that they live daily...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Litanist For the common witness that Anglican and Catholics have been able to bear in addressing social and moral issues...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Litanist For the increased opportunities to study theology together, and for the close relations between Anglican and Catholic colleges on many campuses across the country...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Litanist For the holy example of men and women who have, in hidden and discreet ways, helped to renew and heal the wounded body of Christ...

People **We give you thanks, O God.**

Presider Lord God,
hear the prayers of your faithful people
and bring the hearts of believers together in your praise
and in common sorrow for their sins.
Heal all divisions among Christians
that we may rejoice in the perfect unity of your Church
and move together as one to eternal life in your kingdom.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the head of the Church,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now uniting our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our saviour Christ has taught us:

All **Our Father...**

Exchange of symbolic gifts between the two churches

Lectors The forty years of dialogue between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Roman Catholic Church in this country can be compared to a decades-long exchange of gifts between our two traditions. We give thanks for the gifts we have each received, and look with anticipation to gifts still to be exchanged.

In the midst of this celebration, we now symbolically exchange gifts. Young people from each of our communions, to whom we commit the future of making visible the church's unity, will present gifts representing the word of God which we share, study, and proclaim together.

While the choir sings, Roman Catholic youth will present Bishop Barry Clarke with a copy of the gospels from the illuminated St. John's Bible, and Anglican youth will present Cardinal Turcotte with a 400th anniversary edition of the King James Bible.

Dismissal

Lector Genuine faith is more than assent: it is expressed in action. As Anglicans and Roman Catholics seek to overcome the remaining obstacles to full visible unity, we recognise that the extent of our common faith compels us to live and witness together more fully here and now. Agreement in faith must go beyond mere affirmation.

Discerning a common faith challenges our churches to recognise that elements of sanctification and truth exist in each other's ecclesial lives, and to develop those channels and practical expressions of co-operation by which a common life and mission may be generated and sustained.

Presider Will you carry forward our commitment to full visible unity for which Christ prayed: that we may all be one, so that world might believe?

People **We will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you, in all you seek to do together, do so with grace and generosity so that we do not obstruct the proclamation of the Good News?

People **We will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek to deepen our relationship with one another in life and mission, and to further build on the communion we share?

People **We will, with God's help.**

Presider The Lord who has given us the will to do these things will give us the grace and power to perform them.

People **Amen.**

Presider Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People **Thanks be to God!**

Concluding hymn (*during which the ministers recess*)