



# ANGLICAN ORDINARIATE FOR THE CANADIAN FORCES



Bulletin/Volume 9, No 1

**Holy Week and Easter 2019**

**BISHOP ORDINARY TO THE FORCES**  
**The Right Reverend Peter Coffin STB, MA, DD**

## UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

by Canon Michelle Staples

Landing in Yellowknife with the intention of leading a small team of chaplains in support of 1500 soldiers on Ex Arctic Ram, I did not expect to be re-focused in support of a local funeral within minutes of touchdown. The message, received through JTFN LO to Commander 1 CMBG simply relayed that Anglican Bishop John (Jack) Sperry had died, and the community impact would be profound. Within minutes of touchdown, the Commander 1 CMBG gave me authority to work with the local diocese with the encouragement to lend any support we could.



I had the pleasure from thereon-in to work with the Rev'd Ron McLean of Holy Trinity Yellowknife. He is probably one of the most humble priests with whom I have ever worked. Faced with a growing list of Bishops and Metropolitans as well as local and provincial dignitaries to coordinate, he was not only very happy to see me show up on his door step, but made me feel like I was an old friend who had a place at his hearth and in his church. And not just me!

### ARCHDEACONS

Col the Ven J. Fletcher, CD

BGen the Ven Dr K. R. McLean, CD, HCG

### CANONS

Cdr the Rev'd Canon B. D. Park, CD  
CANON RECRUITER

Col the Rev'd Canon N. Shaw, CD  
CANON TREASURER

LCol the Rev'd Canon G. Thorne, MMM, CD  
CANON RESERVIST

Cdr the Rev'd Canon J. Wilcox, CD  
CANON SECRETARY

LCdr the Rev'd Canon D. M. Greenwood, CD  
HONARY CANON

Maj the Rev'd M. L. Staples, CD  
HONORARY CANON

Padre Bastien LeClerc, the JTFN Chaplain, and good friend of Ron's, formed part of the team that truly became a community event in which ecumenical, military, and civilian workers all cooperated in a powerful and positive way. Working together, we were able to turn a hockey arena into a cathedral able to seat 1000, and back into a sports facility within mere hours. The soldiers of 1 CMBG HQ & Sigs who assisted in the set-up and tear-down made us all proud.

During the liturgy Padre LeClerc and I were asked to pray the Branch Chaplain's Prayer, which we did in unison. Given the service of the man for whom we were there to celebrate--both his military service and his life of commitment to Christ in His church--praying our prayer took on a whole new significance. Standing in the freezing cold arena, surrounded by peoples of all races and nations, all paying homage to the man who served them and to the God who sent him to work under extreme and demanding conditions, I was impacted again by not only the cost of service, but much more profoundly, by its blessings.

*This Bullenn, for the Anglican Ordinariate of the Canadian Forces, is an informal document for the members of the Clericus. Its purpose is to provide the membership a means of communication and an expression of our fellowship. It is issued under the jurisdiction of the Bishop Ordinary for the Canadian Forces (Anglican). To submit an article please email text to: [dmgcag1@msn.com](mailto:dmgcag1@msn.com).*

## A word from our Archdeacon...

### “Two Charcoal Fires”:

In November I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the “Palestine of Jesus” course at St. George’s College in Jerusalem. Visiting the land of the Holy One and walking in the footsteps of Jesus were life-changing experiences for me; and I can truthfully say I will never read the scripture stories in quite the same way again.

The region of Galilee was particularly inspiring for me. I’ll never forget our visit to Capernaum -- where the mission of Jesus began, in a sense -- and to the site referred to as the “Primacy of Peter” -- where that mission began anew. I will not forget the proximity of these two places, both in space and time, nor how all creation was changed forever as the sacred story moved, from the one to the other, and then beyond.

As many of us will have an opportunity to do at the Easter Vigil this year, the members of our course were invited to reaffirm our baptismal vows. We did so along the shores of the Galilee, at the shrine dedicated to the “Primacy of Peter”, which marks what is believed to be the site of the fourth resurrection appearance of Jesus. We gathered near the shrine and listened to the text from the 21st chapter of the gospel according to St. John, and then the College Dean reflected on this passage, and on his own baptism.

In his reflection, the Dean pointed out that the Greek word *anthraki* --, meaning "charcoal" -- appears only twice in the New Testament. Once as Peter warms himself by a “charcoal” fire in Caiaphas' courtyard on the dark night of Jesus' arrest when Peter three times denied Jesus. The second time is in this passage that tells of a “charcoal” fire on the shore of Galilee, where at the dawn of a new day, the risen Lord prepared breakfast for his dispirited disciples, and where Jesus healed and restored Peter's relationship with him.

After this time of reflection, we made our way to the lake’s edge where we used the waters from the Sea of Galilee for the rite of asperges (or sprinkling) as we renewed our baptismal vows together. What a powerful and meaning-filled conclusion to what had been a rich and wonderful day: a day that had begun by reflecting on the call of the very first disciples at Capernaum, and concluded by reflecting on Peter's threefold commissioning – to "feed my sheep" -- and on our own re-commissioning in the renewal of our baptismal vows.

Our baptism proclaims that in life, in death and in life beyond death, the Lord is with us and that we are the Lord's. Our frailty and our folly, our illness and adversity, our betrayals and denials, are all overcome by the love and forgiveness of Christ. And Christ calls us and challenges us - once, twice, three times, and more - to declare our love for him by feeding and caring for his sheep, by loving and serving our neighbours -- both near and far. It is for this ministry that we are called and equipped as disciples.

May your own journey through Holy Week into Easter lead you beyond the charcoal fires of denial, diminishment and despair, unto the fires of new birth, where resurrected light kindles, both within and through you, for your own healing and renewal, and for the healing and renewal of God’s world.

God Bless,

*John+*

Colonel J. M. Fletcher, Archdeacon, Anglican Military Ordinariate



*Colonel the Venerable John Fletcher  
Archdeacon of the Canadian Forces*

### INVITATION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord’s paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life. *Amen.*

### COLLECT FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### COLLECT FOR EASTER

Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## A WORD FROM OUR BISHOP

### “WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS”

Holy Week And Easter 2012

We are on the edge of Holy Week and in our hearts and minds we go to Jerusalem to recall who Jesus is for us and what he has done for us. This is the week that forever changes the world for those of us who call him Saviour and Lord. If we are called to take up our own crosses and follow him, as we surely are, then we must look to this time with profound devotion and hope. All that we believe hinges on the events of this week. “Watch and pray.”

Before his betrayal and crucifixion Jesus says: “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.” Saint John records that those standing by heard only thunder. (John 12:27-29) In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays that the cup of suffering may pass from him and then says, “Father, not my will but yours be done.” (Luke 22:41-43) This is the core of Christian prayer and is part of the one that our Lord taught us: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” It is when we pray and live that prayer, as Jesus did, the Kingdom of God comes nigh and the victory over whatever assails is assured – even through the valley of shadows. (Psalm 23) Jesus is with us there even though, for a time, we may wonder.

So, he goes to the cross for us and standing on this side of Easter we know that, though he seemed to be defeated, death could not hold him. A dying thief recognized him and asked that he be remembered as he came into his ‘kingly power’. With brave banners down, a king was going home, and said to him: “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43) He says to us: “Let not your hearts be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:1-2) This is our deepest hope – to rise again with him and to be in his presence forever.

However, Easter is not just about a future hope but a present reality of life in Jesus. It is about the possibility of joy in the midst of pain, of light in the midst of darkness, of hope in the midst of despair and that in him “all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.” (Dame Julian of Norwich 1342 - 1413 AD) Barriers come down and life is filled with infinite possibility. Saint Paul writes (and this is a favourite passage for me when I feel down): “In all things we are more than conquerors through him

who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39)

Between the years 1705 and 1748 Doctor Isaac Watts wrote more than 600 hymns but his greatest and most beloved is *When I survey the Wondrous Cross*. The last verse is how I would like to respond to what Jesus has borne for me. (vs. 1 and 4)

*When I survey the wondrous Cross,  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but lost,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an off’ring far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

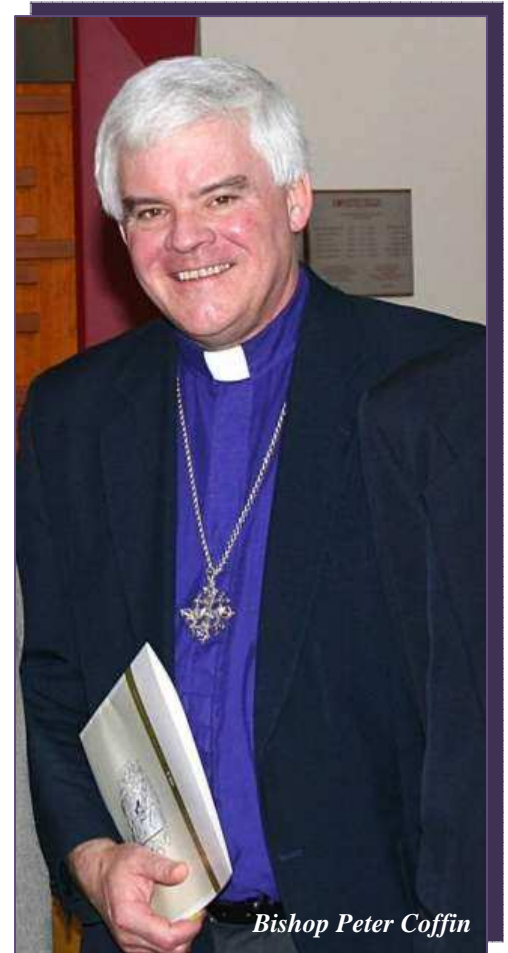
As he has given his all, may we render our all to him. In the Upper Room he taught us to live as a servant church and that by love the world will know that we are his disciples. (John 13:1-17; 34-35) “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son,” and to his disciples – us – Jesus says, “As the Father has sent me so I send you.” (John 3:16; 20:21) We proclaim a crucified and risen Lord who reigns in the hearts of all who believe. It is a life and world changing truth. What incredible grace!

May this Holy Season be a blessing to you all and may we, giving our all, be a blessing to each other and God’s beloved world.

**+Peter**

Anglican Bishop Ordinary

*(The Right Reverend Peter Coffin was appointed by the Primate to the position of Bishop Ordinary (Anglican) to the Canadian Forces in November 2004.)*



*Bishop Peter Coffin*

## OUR ORDINariate REMEMBERS

### BISHOP JOHN SPERRY *by Padre Mike Peterson*

Bishop John R. Sperry stands in a long tradition of Anglican missionaries and evangelists to the Arctic that includes Isaac Stringer and Edmund James Peck.

Newly ordained, this young Englishman first went to the Canadian Arctic in early 1950, arriving in the settlement of Coppermine, now Kugluktuk. At that time, Kugluktuk's population was seven Inuit families and about 12 southerners, living in snow houses and dependant on hunting and on the annual arrival of supplies by ship. In those days, all travel was by dog sled, and Sperry recalled travelling up to three thousand miles in a year this way.

Besides his pastoral duties, Sperry became the community's dentist when the resident missionary left. As he recalled, "It was all straight extractions with lots of anaesthesia", and Sperry considered himself fortunate in that "the teeth of the people in those days were particularly good, which was fortunate."

In April 1952 Sperry married Elizabeth, an Englishwoman who had come to Aklavik the year before to serve as a midwife. They were married in Coppermine and lived there for nineteen years, raising two children before moving to serve the parish of Fort Smith for four years. In 1973, Sperry was elected Bishop of the Diocese of the Arctic, and lived first in Iqaluit and then in Yellowknife, where he spent the rest of his life.

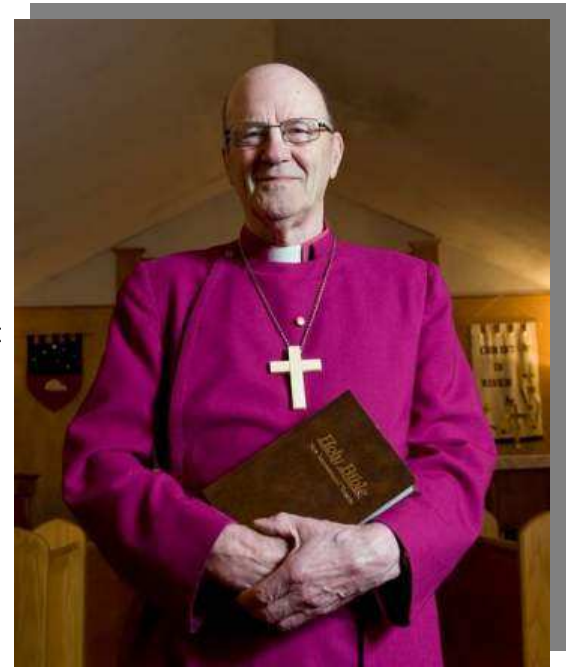
Throughout his ministry, Sperry was committed to the people and culture of the Arctic. He became fluent in Inuinnagtun, translated the bible, taught many to read and write, and is credited with helping to preserve Inuit language and culture during the social upheavals of the 1950s and 1960s. He supported and mentored local clergy, including Andrew Atagotaaluk, who became the Anglican Communion's first Inuk diocesan bishop. Bishop Andrew acknowledged Sperry as his "spiritual father" crediting him with "much influence on making us sensitive to who we were as Inuit people."

Himself a veteran of the Royal Navy in the Second World War, Sperry devoted himself to military chaplaincy in his retirement., working with the Canadian Rangers of Joint Task Force North, the Legion, and with veterans throughout the Arctic. In 2010, Bishop Sperry was a guest of honour at our Branch's Retreat in Cornwall, ON, and spoke of his ministry at the scarfing ceremony for that year's new class of chaplains.

A colleague of his, Tom Chesterton, remembered Sperry as "a down-to-earth, ordinary Christian; he loved the Gospel and he loved the people of the Arctic, and he loved, most of all, bringing the two together." Sperry's example of meeting people where they are, learning their culture, and serving them in a simple and concrete manner stands as a luminous icon to us in our own work as chaplains.

Bishop John R. Sperry died on Feb. 11 in Hay River, N.W.T. He was 87 years old.

*Pictured at right are the EX ARCTIC RAM members from 1 CMBG HQ and Sigs who assisted in the set-up and tear-down of facilities for the large funeral for Bishop Sperry.*



## CANADA DECORATION with CLASP

Canon Baxter Park recently received the first clasp (bar) to the Canada Decoration representing 22 years of faithful and loyal service. Pictured at right standing in front of the beautiful naval stained glass and the ship's bell baptismal font from HMS UGANDA, is Cdr Park and the presenter, Capt (N) Brian Santarpia, Base Commander, Halifax.



## WING COMMANDER'S COMMENDATION

On 30 November 2011, Padre Blair Ross, received the Wing Commander's Commendation from Colonel Sean G. Friday, Commander 8 Wing, Trenton. Blair's commendation reads, *"With dedication and devotion, Captain Ross worked tirelessly to re-establish the time honoured tradition of 'Committal of Ashes from the Air' for our deceased service personnel. His experience and knowledge of this unique ministry were invaluable in the design of the apparatus required to perform this service with dignity from the CF-130 Hercules aircraft. Further, he developed an aide-memoire to assist other chaplains in honouring this Air Force tradition makes him highly deserving of this commendation."*



## ANGLICANS & FRIENDS

Canon Michelle Staples reports that during the busy time in and around Yellowknife, during the multi-agency training operation ARCTIC RAM, time was found by the busy military chaplains to host some of the local clergy and tour them around the exercise site.

Approximately 1,500 Canadian soldiers and Rangers of the Canadian Army and Joint Task Force North deployed with the Territorial government, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Civil Agencies to re-familiarize the military with our harsh winter environment and to exercise Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

## FROM OUR CANON TREASURER *by Canon Nigel Shaw*

Too often Treasurers have to speak about shortages in donations and the impacts that the funding shortfalls will have on the goals and programmes of organizations. This happily is not the case within the Ordinariate. As your Treasurer, and on behalf of our Bishop Ordinary, I wish to thank you all for the generous support that you gave to the Ordinariate in 2011. A detailed financial report will be delivered at our Annual Retreat but I wish to mention a couple of highlights in this forum. The Ordinariate received donations of over \$35,000 throughout the year. This represents a huge increase over the previous year and brings us much closer to levels of support needed to be self sufficient. 2011 is the first year when the donations from within the Ordinariate exceeded the amount of support provided by the National Church. In fact donations were such that not only was it possible to transfer \$5,000 to the Bishop Ordinary Trust Fund but \$5,000 was returned to the National Church. As an Ordinariate we also supported the Council of the North and Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. The long term project of building up sufficient funds in the Bishop Ordinary Trust to establish a permanent paid part time Bishop Ordinary position is progressing well. The balance of the Bishop Ordinary Trust as of 31 Dec 11 was \$156,000 and as most of you are aware the Trust will be receiving a sizable gift this summer. Though there is still significant work to be done before the project is complete the progress that has been made is exceptional. Once again thank you for your generosity and continuing support of the Ordinariate.