

Stay Connected – Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Sunday

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Mark 1.14–20

Peter's Blurb

*O Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

Hello everyone,

Sad news to start with on Remembrance Sunday. This from the Francis family:

"Good day Clergy friends, in concert with Bishop Nick, I write to inform you that our friend the Rev'd Canon James W. Francis, OBE, JP transitioned time for eternity early this morning. His children Kim and Jimmy are on island to begin final arrangements. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. Please feel free to make this announcement to your Parish families."

Canon Francis loomed large in the Anglican Church of Bermuda. He persevered through the days of segregation in Bermuda and in the church and he prevailed. A few excerpts from a 2010 bio in the Royal Gazette can be seen to exemplify his life's challenges:

"A consummate workaholic, he enjoys local and international admiration and respect as a man of God. He is refreshingly informal in his demeanour and bereft of the sin of pride."

"When he inquired of a former Canon at the Anglican Cathedral as to how he should prepare himself for the priesthood, he was promptly told there were no plans for a "native" to aspire to the priesthood in the Anglican Church in Bermuda!"

"Bishop Christopher Luxmore, then Bishop of the Diocese of Bermuda [1984 – 1989], felt the time was right to embrace change and the best place to start was in the Mother Church of Anglicanism, the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity."

"Reports of a man named James W. Francis reached the Bishop's desk and soon afterwards James W. Francis, adorned in cassock and surplice, was processing up the nave, led by resplendently robed clergy, to be installed as the first Bermudian Canon Residentiary of the Anglican Cathedral."

"And whilst the Diocese rejoiced in the knowledge that Bermuda finally gained as Bishop [Ewen Ratteray] a son of the soil, there existed an undercurrent among the laity that Church politics worked against the good Canon and his ministry in the Cathedral soon came to an end."

"He was not ready to hang up his clerical collar and desired another parish to continue this ministry....He did not have long to wait. Christ Anglican Church in Devonshire was in need of a new Rector for which Canon Francis, with all his gifts and skills, to say nothing of his parish roots, was a natural fit."

For the full 2010 article refer to: <https://www.royalgazette.com/archive/lifestyle/article/20101021/canon-francis-a-remarkable-life-of-service/>

And Christ Church is where most of us remember him from. I have only positive memories of him. A smart dresser for whom "sartorial elegance" might not be too strong a term. A man who spoke his mind and did not

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hesitate to remind us of what we should be doing and how we should be doing it. He also nurtured a young Jay Tucker, formerly a minister in the AME Church, and introduced Jay to Anglicanism. Fr. Jay was an associate priest at St. Mark's for a couple of years during his preparation and has now, finally, achieved his heartfelt goal to be the Priest-in-charge at Christ Church, Devonshire, following in the footsteps of his mentor and spiritual guide Canon Francis.

RIP Canon Francis – deceased at 96 (?) “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ (*Matthew 25:21*)

Meanwhile, at St. Mark's, we observed Remembrance Sunday in traditional style. We were greeted by this beautiful display above the altar at the East End – another work of floral art by Annie. Thank you Annie, that is so lovely.

The service commenced with a wreath laying ceremony. Wreaths were laid at our Altar Table by representatives of St. Mark's Guild; our children; the 19th Bermuda Scout Group (based at St. Mark's); St. Mark's Vestry and our Wardens. After this the service took off to the majestic strains of our opening hymn

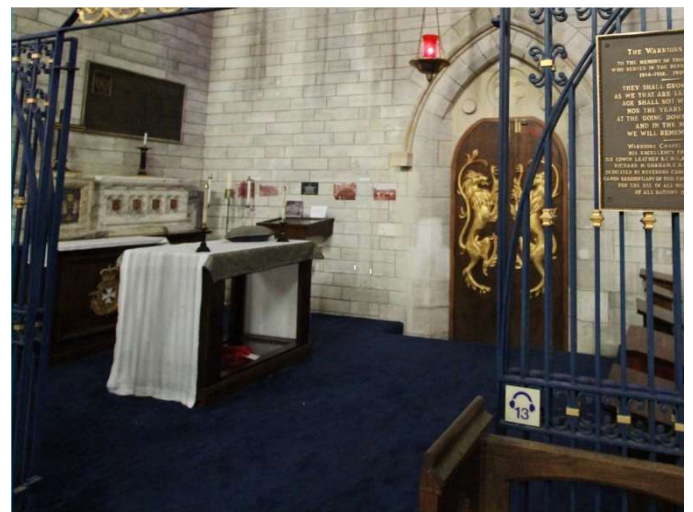


“How great thou art” with our choir decked out in various combinations of the traditional Red and Black associated with the occasion of Remembrance Sunday. Following some opening confessions and prayers we then sang the modern song “How great is our God” before the lesson read by Dudley and then Gav’s Talk (see below)

To introduce his talk Gav had prepared a video presentation on the Warriors’ Chapel in the South transept at the

Cathedral in Hamilton, which commemorates the service and sacrifice of those Bermudians who served in World War I and World War II. The Chapel was created by a committee under the chairmanship of the late Colonel **Sir Richard Masters Gorham** CBE, DFC, JP and was dedicated in 1977.

The “visit” to the Chapel was conducted in real time with Gav first asking Helen to call Canon Jerry at the Cathedral to seek permission to use the “Secret Portal” to access the Chapel. We caught Canon Jerry just in time as he was just about to lead his own service but, permission granted, Gav was able to proceed. It turns out that the access to the “Secret Portal” is via the cupboard in the Sacristy (who knew – all the decades I have been at St. Mark's I didn't!) So off goes Gav into the “Portal” and then is talking to us from the Chapel. He showed us various aspects of the Chapel, and told of the significance of them before finally returning to St. Mark's via the “Portal” and continuing with the rest of his Talk. Amazing technology! I must try it sometime 🙄😊 A brilliantly conceived and executed piece of video production 😊 Oh! And you can read the text of Gav’s talk below.



Also, during his Talk, Gav re-iterated the tale of HMS Jervis Bay, a mere armed merchantman, when it sacrificed itself to the might of the German heavy battleship Admiral Graf Spee in order to buy time for the convey she was accompanying to put distance between themselves and the battleship and thence to safety. A brave, selfless act of personal sacrifice. Of a crew of 268 only 65 survived having been rescued by a Swedish ship from the convey under command of a Captain Olander, impressed by the courage shown by Captain Fegen and Jervis Bay, called his ship's crew together and proposed they return to the scene and pick up survivors to which his crew agreed.

The full story of the HMS Jervis Bay, for those interested further, can be found at <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/the-heroic-death-of-the-hms-jervis-bay/>



Back to the service. When it came time for our Prayers, instead of an Intercessor reading a prepared text the prayers were done “interactively” with each person bringing their own personal prayers up, receiving a paper poppy and adding it to a “prayer” cross. This was very effective.

The service concluded with a rousing, uplifting singing of “Shine, Jesus, Shine” and a powerful “God is our strength and refuge” set to the well-known tune (or at least it used to be) “Dam Busters March” (from the 1955 film of the same name) – a favourite of our former organist, the late Jean Motyer.

A moving service all around. Thanks to everyone for your participation. And last, but by no means least, huge thanks to the 19th Boy Scouts for a \$500 donation.

I always like, at this time, to share the famous poem from the World War I era of the poem by John McCrae – written in 2015.

“In Flanders Fields”

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Now a few requests to bring to your attention.

- The Guild is asking us to bring items of non-perishable foods to the **Diocesan Guild Service** next Sunday (see Coming events below)
- Holy Trinity is holding a **fund-raising raffle** which will be drawn on 15th February 2025. Tickets are available from HTC members and especially from Carol Correia who sings with us. In addition, I shall have a quantity of tickets to sell.
- The Grand Bake Sale, organized by the Cottingham family, will soon be upon us. The call is for bakers to gird up their aprons and get a-baking. See the poster at the end of this newsletter for details.

Finally, do be sure to check out the whole **Coming Events** section below. There are even more great events on the horizon and you surely will not wish to miss any of them. Please take note. 👁️

Until next week,

Peter 🙏

Fr. Gav's Talk

This Sunday's talk was not recorded.

Fr. Gav's Article

The text of Fr. Gav's article in last Saturday's RG is the same as last Sunday's talk but can be read here

<https://www.royalgazette.com/religion/lifestyle/article/20241109/as-christians-what-laws-are-we-under/>

In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Father Don, Margaret Blanchette, Anna Fulton, Al Spearing, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Phyllis, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Sonny, Vinette, Marianne, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Robert & Kalreeta. Carys & Glenn, Charles & Sue, Ashleigh & Max & Eva. We also hold in prayer the family and friends of The Rev. Canon James W. Francis who passed away this weekend.

This Sunday



There will be no video of today's service.

Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or our

Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

Next Sunday

Coming Sunday, 17th November, there will be Peaceful Worship at 8.00am followed by Contemporary Worship at 9.30am both led by Fr. Gav. We will be observing Safeguarding Sunday. There will also be Junior Church and activities for youngsters in the Parish Hall. All children welcome. We gather in the Hall after the service for fellowship and refreshments

Coming Events



- **Diocesan Guilds' Thanksgiving Service** – this service will be held on **Sunday, 17th November at 3:00 p.m.**

in the Cathedral. All are welcome;

- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 23rd November**;
- **Kidz Takeover** – This year's edition of Kidz Takeover Sunday will be held at 9.30 a.m. on **Sunday 24th November**. They did such a brilliant job of running the entire service last year that you really do not want to miss this;
- **Inn Sights** – This year's edition of this popular evening of study and prayer will take place at Swizzle Inn on four consecutive Monday evenings commencing **Monday, 25th November at 6.30 p.m.** Buffet Supper will be served. Bar service available;
- **Bermuda Church Society AGM** – The annual meeting of the BCS, of which all Bermuda Anglicans are voting members as of right, is on **Wednesday 27th November** at the TN Nisbett Hall, Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire, starting at 6.00 pm;
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place on at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 1st January** in the Parish Hall;
- **Journey together with God** – this new initiative will be hosted by Jeannie & Bob Flath and led by Steve & Cathy West. This **Life Group** is an opportunity for mutual pastoral support, learning, and to get to know people. Come along and help get this started. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 18th November**. Time and venue to be determined;
- **Guild Christmas Party** – St. Mark's Guild invite us all to their Christmas Party in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, 7th December at 7.30 p.m.** See poster below for details.
- **Annual Candlelight Service** – Christ Church, Devonshire will be holding their service of Carols and Lessons on **Sunday, 8th December** from 5.30 p.m. See <https://anglican.bm/events/annual-candlelight-service-4/> for details;
- **Christmas Bake Sale** – this year's Bake Sale, organized by Debbie Cottingham, will take place on **Saturday, 14th December**. See poster soliciting baked goods in the poster below.

Church Life

Down the Debt – St. Mark's needs your help in reducing the size of our debt which inhibits future investment in our church. If you feel you may be able to help with this please go to <https://stmarks.bm/donate/> where you will find details and an opportunity to donate.

Links:

Just a reminder – if you want to check vot's happnin' or vot's comin' dahn de road – you can find it all at our:

- **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda>
- **Website:** <https://stmarks.bm/>
- **Holy Trinity Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchbda>

End Stuff:

Here's a thought. It is always a great time for us all to review our pledging. If each of us is able to increase our pledge by 10% that would be a great boost to our cash flow (which as you know is tenuous at best). And, with our in-person collections still inhibited by numbers restrictions, please consider the opportunity to convert to pledging by Direct Deposit (see below). Your support is vital.

As always, another huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our church family with your pledges and donations via online transfer.

Direct deposits can be made to: Butterfield Bank for the account of:

St. Mark's Church Wardens – A/c No. 20-006-060-104125-100.

- **For Pledge Envelope donations** – if you already have a Pledge envelope number just be sure to enter your Name and Env # e.g. “Nash Env 190” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Grave Payments** – when paying Grave Maintenance fees be sure to enter Grave Number and Name of Lessee e.g. “Grave 273 Peter Nash” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Cash donations** – if you do not have an Envelope # just be sure to also enter your Name and “Donation” e.g. “Nash Donation” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.

Use of the “Beneficiary” space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what.

Come to St. Mark's – not just a Church but a family!



Invitation

to the Guild's Christmas Party

Saturday December 7th 7.30 pm



With Nibbles, Christmas Cheer

& Carols

with Vernon Douglas on piano

RSVP Barbara Willis 747-8893 bbwillis1949@gmail.com



ST. MARK'S CHURCH – CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 14TH, 2024 – 9am – 2pm

St. Mark's Church will once again be holding our annual Christmas Bake Sale. Pre-ordering will also be available. Contact djecottingham@hotmail.com for any pre-order requests.

This message is a call for bakers please!! Please support the Church in this year's endeavour.

If you are willing to offer baked goods, kindly call or email me as soon as possible, so that I know what you will make and the quantities. I will need to know this before I can post items to facilitate pre-order requests. I will post the list of items for sale on the Church WhatsApp for anyone who wishes to pre-order.

I will need to receive your goodies no later than 4pm, Friday December 13th, so that I have time to put the orders together and/or price for sale. The earlier in the day we receive your donations the better prepared I can be! Some like to bake bread, so delivery on Saturday morning is fine. Please call me for drop-off directions or if you need your goodies collected. I am centrally located in Devonshire.

As always, if possible, please have your goodies festively packaged, so that they can be seen, ready for sale.

Debbie Cottingham 236-8155 or djecottingham@hotmail.com

Thank you in advance for your support.

