



ECHO



AUGUST 2022 EDITION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE
www.ourchurch.fr

The Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury apologise to Indigenous Canadians. Extradition sought of priest from France to Canada.

Both Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby have offered apologies to the indigenous population of Canada for their Churches' role in establishing schools in Canada where children were abused and attempts were made to suppress their culture and replace it with that of Europe.

His Holiness referred to this as a "deplorable evil" and "disastrous error".

"I am sorry for the ways in which, regrettably, many Christians supported the colonizing mentality of the powers that oppressed the indigenous peoples. I am sorry," he said. "In the face of this deplorable evil, the Church kneels before God and implores his forgiveness for the sins of her children."

Between 1881 and 1996, more than 150,000 indigenous children were separated from their families and put into residential schools where they were abused in a way that the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission described as 'cultural genocide'.

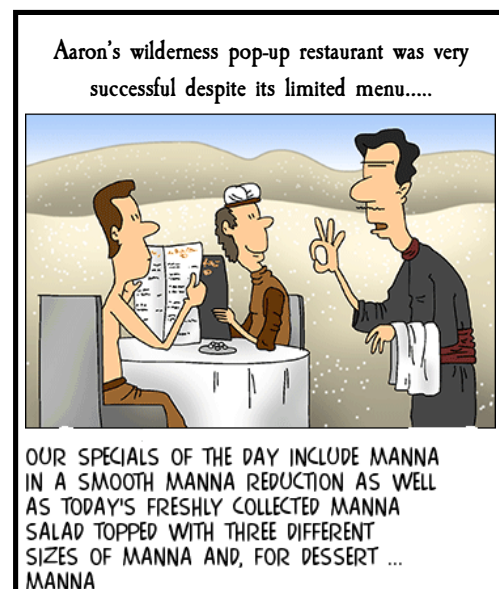
Children were starved and beaten for speaking their native languages, and were also subjected to sexual abuse. In 2021, the remains of 215 children were discovered buried at a former school in British Columbia. Since then, the suspected remains of hundreds more children have been detected at other schools.

After the Pope spoke, Chief Wilton Littlechild placed a feather headdress on the pontiff's head. Francis stood from his chair and wore it for a few moments before a clapping crowd.

Archbishop Justin travelled to Canada in April to apologise for the Church of England's part in the "structural sins of racism and discrimination" committed against the Indigenous peoples of Canada over decades.

He told a gathering of members of different tribes "I am sorry that the Church was not there for you when we should have been your greatest friends. . . I am sorry that the Church belittled your spirituality, denigrated, and undermined your culture, traditions, and, above, all your languages, and abused

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

your rights. And I am sorry that, in an eagerness to share the good news of Jesus Christ, we committed an indefensible sin of the arrogant assumption that we 'brought God to you' rather than understanding and seeking to listen."

Describing residential schools as a "bit of hell" built by the Church, he said: "For that terrible crime, sin, evil, of deliberately, consciously, stupidly — because evil is stupid — building hell and putting children into it, and staffing it, I am more sorry than I could ever, ever begin to express."

Speaking in a meeting at the General Synod of the Church of England in York in July, Archbishop Justin told how he had spent his first night in Canada totally unable to sleep as he went over and over in his mind the terrible stories he had heard of abuse and mistreatment.

He commented that abuses like this highlighted the need for greater oversight of the Church by its members, who should have been able to ask more questions about why a Church was participating in any way in cultural suppression.

Many survivors have said that they want more than simply an apology.

They also want financial compensation, the return of artefacts sent to the Vatican by missionaries, support in bringing an alleged abuser now living in France to justice and the release of records held by the religious orders that ran the schools.

Some also have called for the Catholic Church to renounce 15th-century papal bulls, or edicts, that justified colonial powers taking away indigenous land.

For Wallace Yellowface, 78, a boarding school survivor from the Pikanni Nation Reserve in southern Alberta, the pope's message was too little offered too late.

"It's late for an apology, and I don't think it will do me much good," he said, adding that he was still trying to find out what happened to his sister who attended a residential school and whom he has not been able to locate.

In January 2022, the Canadian Government agreed to pay C\$40 billion to compensate children who were taken from their families. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have pledged to raise a further C\$30 million to fund a number of initiatives.

Archbishop Welby warned that he could not immediately promise financial compensation from the Church of England because "I don't run it. I can't just go home and write a cheque."

The Anglican Church of Canada paid C\$15.7 million in 2006, and although C\$2.8 million was subsequently refunded to the Church following the creation of a new compensation formula, the Church still invested the refunded money into a series of ministry programs with the indigenous population.

In the meantime, France has received a request from Canada to extradite retired Roman Catholic priest Johannes Rivoire, who is now 91 years old and lives in a retirement home in Lyon, so that he can face a charge of sexual abuse from when he worked in Canada's North, where he spent more than 30 years in ministry.

Pere Rivoire has firmly declared his innocence and intends to resist any attempt to extradite him.



TIME FOR A BREAK AND A REST ?

Canon Paul Hardingham, Vicar of St Peter's Halliwell, Bolton, shares his thoughts with us

August sees many of us taking holidays to get some well-earned rest from working. But what is the biblical relationship between rest and work? The Bible shows us that we are to work from rest, not rest from work. How is this working out in our current experience?

When God created human beings on the 6th day, the next full day was a day of rest before the work began: 'Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.' (Genesis 2:3). Sunday is a day of rest at the beginning of the week.

Jesus lived out this rhythm of rest and work in His own ministry: 'Very early in the morning, Jesus got up and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed' He then told His disciples: 'Let us go somewhere else so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.' (Mark 1:35-38).

Here is a rhythm for our own lives: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit' (John 15:5). Our work/fruitfulness arises out of the time we abide/rest in Jesus. He will then show us what aspects of our lives need pruning: 'while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.' (2).

Let's use this month to reflect on how this pattern is working in our lives:

**Are we spending enough time 'abiding' in Jesus?
Are we putting our energies into the right balance of rest and work?
Are there unproductive areas of our lives and churches that need pruning?**

Remember God created us as human beings not just human doings!!

The 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption

On the 15th August, here in France we will be enjoying a public holiday as we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.

An ancient name for this day is the Transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the Assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.'

The second quality is trust. Former-Archbishop Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. "For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus." Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, "Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see."

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.



Titian's *Frari Assumption* or *The Assumption of the Virgin* was painted between 1515 and 1518 and remains where it was always intended to be - as an altarpiece above the high altar of the Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa de Frari in Venice

Church Mice

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ECO Northern House Group

Janet Varty

Our Group gathered at the end of June in what it is now hard to believe was wet weather which compelled us to remain indoors.

We shared the Creation Service using an Iona Liturgy, and then held a discussion in which we examined randomly chosen words of Jesus in pairs.

A Special Service of Thanksgiving took place on July 14th to celebrate Margaret Cross' special birthday and to express joy for the reunion of her family here in France this summer. We were in the welcome shade of the open-sided barn as it was very hot indeed.

Local family members were joined by those from Canada and the UK, and it was a multi-generational occasion.

There were some tricky challenges with flights but everyone made it on time. The travelling lectern fall designed by Andrea Higginson (below right) came into its own for this service, the words from David Adam summing up our hopes and faith.

The music chosen was "Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord" and the Gospel reading was the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Afterwards we were able to enjoy cool drinks and a lovely luncheon together when even more folk came to help us celebrate.

We will be meeting again at the very end of July, and will include a report in the next edition of ECHO.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



ECO will be holding a service of Harvest Thanksgiving on Thursday 15th September in Margaret Cross' Barn

We will include more details in the September Edition of ECHO





For those sitting in the garden Summer Days, we have included some poems that you might like to read.

Approaching a birthday

by Neil Batcock

Tonight I can see the mountain peaks.
They surely have names.
Do they have names for themselves ?
Do they know my name ?
I can see them, perhaps they can see me.
How do they find the July heat ? Does it hurt ?

Can I imagine them in the palm of my hand,
Where everything that ever was, is ?
I lift up my eyes to them.
Maybe my health and hope is there.
They do not sleep as we do.
They see, and reflect, and feel their own weight.

Birthdays for them come and go,
Aeons and millennia, not years.
Sedimentary, as the detective said.
There was a sculptor who could release
angels from
rock,
And the rock bears witness to their entrapment.
Michael the Angel, one day, will set all of us free

Neil has written this as his own birthday approaches. We wish him Many Happy Returns

Morning Prayer

from the Prayers of Western Highlanders

When morning in russet and saffron clad
Is mantling the hills in a dew-soft plaid
To the song of the moorland two-wings glad
Let my heart upraise;

When light creeps in through the chinks of the door
When the mist ascends from the mountain floor,
When the ocean shimmers like burnished ore,
Let me give Thee praise.

O God of the morning, Christ of the hills,
O Spirit who all the firmament fills,
O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,
Keep us all our days.

What a World

by Megan Carter

What a world, what a world, whirling and twirling
Twisting and turning spinning in space,
God with His finger brings order from chaos
Mountains and seas all put in place.

Man the peak of all His creation
Awakes to a world full of beauty and grace,
Walks in the garden with God his creator
Fellowship sweet as they meet face to face.

What a world, what a world, whirling and twirling
Twisting and turning peace now has gone
Ignoring his Lord bringing chaos from order
Fellowship broken, man now all alone.

It's His world, not our world
He has come to reclaim it,
Restoring communion foolishly lost,
Our Saviour, Redeemer with undeserved grace
Brings us back to the fold through the work of His cross.

A Blessing Comes

by Kathleen Gillum

It's good to get away from noise
From chaos and from din,
To seek in solitude and peace
The beauty that's within
To go into a quiet place
Where all is fresh and green,
And contemplate in silent calm
Great truths and things unseen.

The mysteries of the universe
The wisdom of the sage,
Or take some old and lovely thought
From a bygone age,
And meditate upon the good
The honest and the true,
This calms the mind and you will find
A blessing comes to you

Transfiguration

by Tim Lenton

(on Saturday August 6th the Church remembers The Transfiguration)

On the cloudy mountain
they spoke about His departure:
light shone from Him
as He bridged two rivers,
slid eternity into time,
just for a moment

and we amazingly could hardly stay awake;
our eyes were heavy, unseeing –
almost preferring sleep to glory

until a shout disturbed the magic,
piercing the fragile
shekinah sheet,
dissolving the picture
and striking us all dumb,

quite dumb – but then
a stiller, smaller voice
came from the cloud:
we woke and listened then.

STAINED GLASS (3)

In the third article in our series about stained glass , Janet Varty writes about her visit to the workshop of Audrey Rogers.

We all appreciate the stained glass windows we find in the churches in the Occitanie and you may have wondered who helps to maintain them. The life of these windows is never ending.

Audrey Rogers is one such restorer, a Master glass maker who graduated from the Olivier de Serres School in Paris.



After working in various Parisian workshops she responded to a call for experts to work on the restoration of windows in ChristChurch New Zealand after the 2011 earthquake.

As a winner of the "Prix de Metiers d'Art she was enabled to open her own workshop in Lamagdaline, route de Cahors (46090).

It is here that she works preserving heritage by restoring all types of stained glass. In the photographs on this page, she was working on a window from the church in Concots (46160).



Audrey's next projects include the Eglise de Saint Pierre at Larnagol (46155) and the Abbatiale Saint Sauveur at Figeac.

A Fine Arts graduate in her own right, Audrey also creates her own designs and offers workshops and courses in glass painting, lead or Tiffany stained glass and jewellery making.



It is possible to visit her at the Atelier (by arrangement). To hear her talk passionately about her work is a joy. (Audrey is bi-lingual)



You can read more about Audrey's work at:
[https://www.metiersdart-occitanie.com/fr/artisan-art/Vitrailiste-\(Ma%C3%A0tre-verrier\)-Audrey-ROGERS-_381_2.html](https://www.metiersdart-occitanie.com/fr/artisan-art/Vitrailiste-(Ma%C3%A0tre-verrier)-Audrey-ROGERS-_381_2.html)

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JOHN BUNYAN
AUTHOR OF *PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*
1628 - 1688**

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than 200 languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than 50 books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

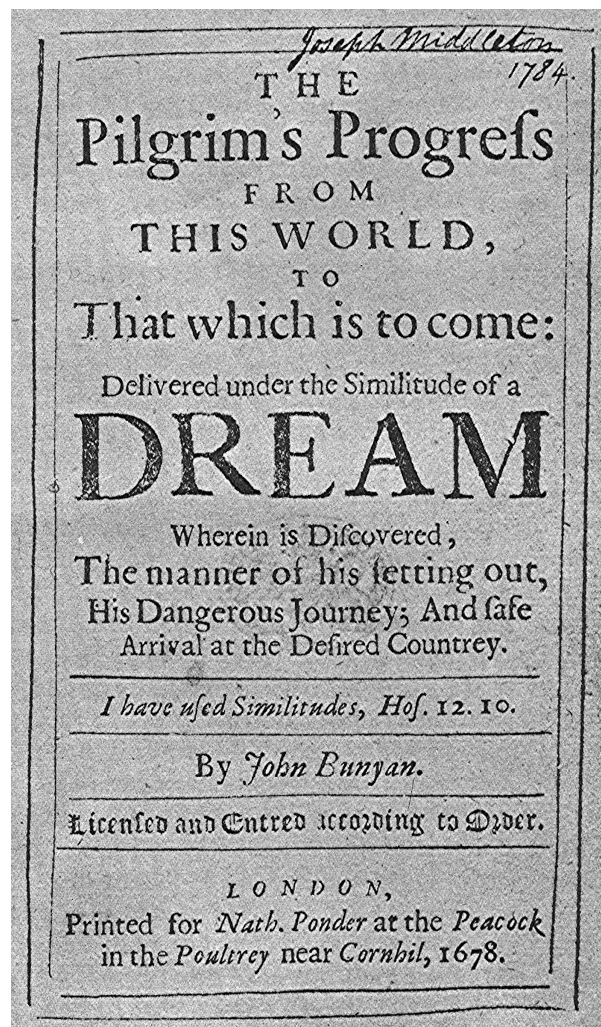
Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661 for breaching The Conventicle Act which prohibited all religious services other than those organised by the Church of England.

Because Bunyan refused to give up preaching, he spent a total of 12 years in prison until 1672. During his imprisonment, however, he was occasionally allowed to leave the prison to preach.

It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress.

It was not only Bunyan's greatest book, but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.



Dated 1678, this is the cover of the 1st Edition of Pilgrim's Progress

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.'

Calling his friends together he says, "My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder." ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...'

Pilgrim's Progress has never been out of print since its first publication. More than 1,300 editions have been published.

There have also been numerous adaptations of the book, including an opera by Ralph Vaughan Williams, various films and even a computer game called "Heaven Bound".

The Big Bash!

(See Luke 14:15-24)



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

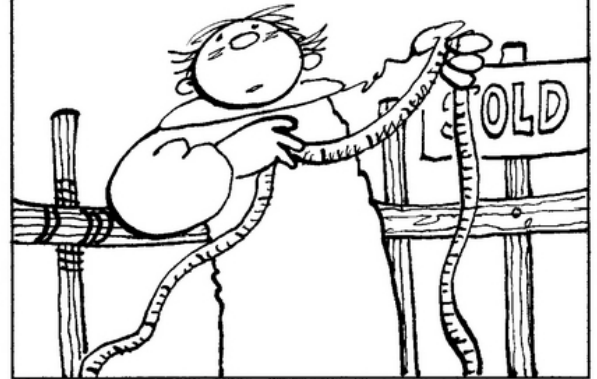


OH! NO!!

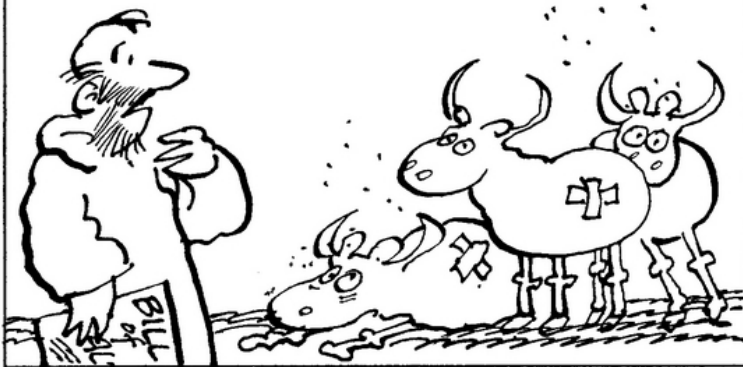


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

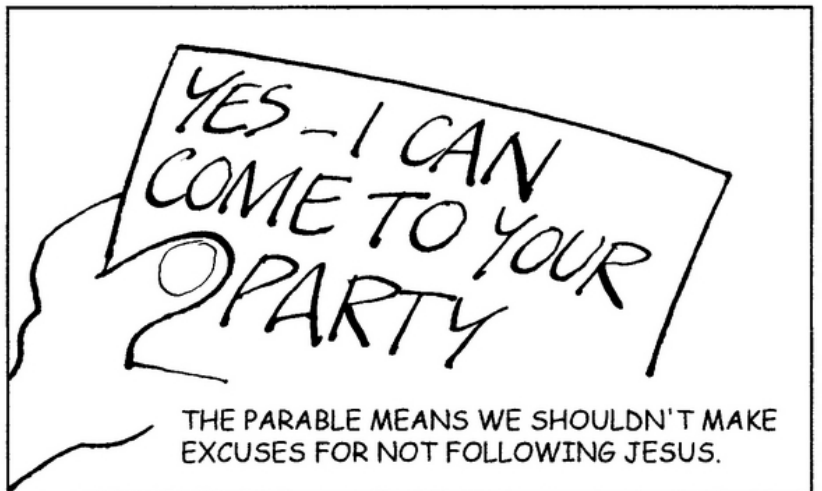


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

ECO WORSHIP CALENDAR AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 19:00	3	4 19:00	5	6
		Online Service of Compline		Online Service of Prayer for Healing		
7 10:30	8	9 19:00	10	11 19:00	12	13
Online Communion Service		Online Service of Compline		Online Service of Prayer for Healing		
14 10:30	15	16 19:00	17	18 19:00	19	20
Online Morning Prayer		Online Service of Compline		Online Service of Prayer for Healing		
21 10:30	22	23 19:00	24	25 19:00	26	27
Online Communion Service		Online Service of Compline		Online Service of Prayer for Healing		
28 10:30	29	30 19:00	31			
Online Morning Prayer		Online Service of Compline				

Dave Walker illustrates reasons why it might be better to worship online with ECO where no one notices if you tune in a bit late...

ARRIVING AT CHURCH

