

MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

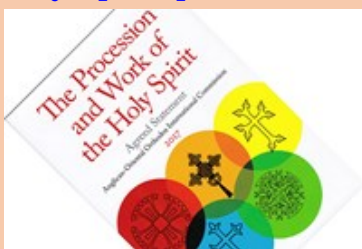
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NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Meet the Bishop Suffragan Candidates Jan. 5, 2019

Please save **Saturday, January 5, 2019** at **Camp Allen** to meet the candidates for Bishop Suffragan. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with prayer. Each candidate will have the opportunity for a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session. The audience will move to a different candidate's room at regular intervals, hence the "walkabout." Lunch is included in the \$20 cost to attend. Lodging is available the previous night at Camp Allen. Election will be held during the **Diocese's 170th Annual Council**, February 21-23, 2019 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

[Historic Anglican-Oriental Orthodox Agreed Statement on the Holy Spirit published](#)



The Agreed Statement between Anglican and Oriental Orthodox theologians on the Procession & Work of the Holy Spirit has been published.



Dear Parish Family:

It will be Thanksgiving in a few short weeks. I cannot help but get nostalgic at this time of year. My mind goes to Thanksgivings past, remembering all of those past Thanksgiving dinners with family as a child. Being the child of Polish immigrants growing up in far West Texas, El Paso, sharing it with my cousins and the extended family where at least three languages were spoken, Polish, Spanish and English. I recall those Thanksgivings past fondly where sausage and ham adorned the table with potatoes of different varieties, and those obligatory jellied salads that were the only true hallmark of Americana on the table. And there was no pumpkin pie to be found, only cheese cake and sweet tamales.

Yet here we are in the present. You and I exist -- we live -- in a certain place, this place, and in a certain time, right now. We live in the present, right where we are. We live with our feet on the ground—we don't levitate. We don't live in the past although it has shaped who we are today, and the future is yet to come, it isn't here—you and I are right here right now.

God works in time and place. God works in this very time and in this very place. You are I are alive, we exist, our hearts beat, blood is coursing through our veins, we have thoughts and feelings, our loves and our desires, our pains and disappointments, our memories of the past and our hopes for the future. We are aware that we are alive right here at this very moment in this very place. In God, we live, we move and we have your being. God is always at work in time and place—for God it is always the here and now from the creation of the universe to His leading the Israelites out of Egypt into freedom, to the birth, life, death and resurrection of his Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, to this very letter that you are reading.

What God has created and what God has saved through Jesus Christ and what God sanctifies through His Holy Spirit is glorious. God in Jesus Christ is not disembodied, and is in the here and now sitting at the right hand of God the Father and the Holy Spirit sanctifies us right where we are. God is here with us.

I'm am no longer a boy sitting at that family table surrounded by extended family, yet I am thankful that I remember the past which has shaped me. I am standing right here and right now, blood coursing through my veins aware of the fact that I am alive, that Christ has redeemed me and constantly welcomes me home as broken as I am, that in my life I have a wonderful wife who supports not only my life in ministry and is a companion with me in preaching the Good News of Jesus, but who supports all I do, who is a grace in my life. I am thankful for my entire family who surround me with a pure love even though I am not deserving of it. I am thankful for God's generosity and my redemption in Jesus. I am thankful for the privilege to serve at St.

Luke's, for our place of worship and fellowship, for the good work done from this parish, thankful for each and every one of you.

What are you thankful for that has shaped who you are? What are you thankful for here and now? What are the blessings of your life?

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector



1. **While president, Thomas Jefferson refused to declare Thanksgiving as a holiday.** Presidents originally had to declare it a holiday every year. History says Jefferson refused because he strongly believed in the separation of church and state. Since Thanksgiving involved prayer, he thought making it a holiday would violate the First Amendment.
2. **The woman behind "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is also responsible for Thanksgiving's recognition as a national holiday.** In 1863, writer and editor Sarah Josepha Hale convinced President Abraham Lincoln to officially declare Thanksgiving a national holiday that recurred every year. She wrote countless articles and letters to persuade the president – and the rest is history!
3. **The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade didn't feature any balloons.** But when the parade made its big debut in 1924, it did have something that might be even cooler than balloons: animals from the Central Park Zoo.

4. **A Thanksgiving mix-up inspired the first TV dinners.** In 1953, a Swanson employee accidentally ordered a colossal shipment of Thanksgiving turkeys (260 tons, to be exact). To get rid of them all, salesman Gerry Thomas came up with the idea of filling 5,000 aluminum trays with the turkey - along with cornbread dressing, gravy, peas, and sweet potatoes. The 98-cents meals were a hit. Within one year, over 10 million were sold.

5. **About 46 million turkeys are cooked for Thanksgiving each year.** It's tradition, after all! And on Christmas, 22 million families host an encore with another turkey.

6. **The turkeys pardoned by the President go on to do some pretty cool things.** President George H.W. Bush pardoned the first turkey in 1989, and it's a tradition that persists today. But what happens to the lucky bird that doesn't get served with a side of mashed potatoes? In 2005 and 2009, the turkeys were sent to Disneyland and Walt Disney World parks to serve as grand marshal in their annual Thanksgiving parades. And from 2010 to 2013, they vacationed at Washington's Mount Vernon state. Not bad!

7. **Most Americans like Thanksgiving leftovers more than the actual meal.** Almost 8 in 10 agree that the second helpings of stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pie beat out the big dinner itself, according to a 2015 Harris Poll.

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*



*FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF
THE MONTH*

*THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS
1 NOVEMBER*

The exact origins of the Feast of All Saints are uncertain, although, after the legalization of Christianity in 313, a common commemoration of the saints, especially the martyrs, appeared in various areas throughout the Church. For instance in the East, the city of Edessa celebrated this feast on May 13; the Syrians, on the Friday after Easter; and the city of Antioch, on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Both St. Ephrem (d. 373) and St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) attest to this feast day in their preaching. In the West, a commemoration for all the saints also was celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

The primary reason for establishing a common feast day was because of the desire to honor the great number of martyrs, especially during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian (284-305), the worst and most extensive of the persecutions. Quite simply, there were not enough days of the year for a feast day for each martyr and many of them died in groups. A common feast day for all saints, therefore, seemed most appropriate.

In 609, the Emperor Phocas gave the Pantheon in Rome to Boniface IV, who rededicated it on May 13 under the title St. Maria ad Martyres (or St. Mary and All Martyrs). Whether the Boniface purposefully chose May 13 because of the date of the popular celebration already established in the East or whether this was just a happy coincidence is open to debate.

The designation of November 1 as the Feast of All Saints occurred over time. Gregory III (731-741) dedicated an oratory in the original St. Peter's Basilica in honor of all the saints on November 1 (at least according to some

accounts), and this date then became the official date for the celebration of the Feast of All Saints in Rome. St. Bede (d. 735) recorded the celebration of All Saints Day on November 1 in England, and such a celebration also existed in Salzburg, Austria. Ado of Vienne (d. 875) recounted how Gregory IV asked King Louis the Pious (778-840) to proclaim November 1 as All Saints Day throughout the Holy Roman Empire. Sacramentaries of the 9th and 10th centuries also placed the Feast of All Saints on the liturgical calendar on November 1.

According to an early Church historian, John Beleth (d. 1165), Gregory IV (827-844) officially declared November 1 the Feast of All Saints, transferring it from May 13. However, Sicard of Cremona (d. 1215) recorded that Gregory VII (1073-85) finally suppressed May 13 and mandated November 1 as the date to celebrate the Feast of All Saints.



“Within Revelation there are stages and degrees of importance. Jesus alone is the unique witness of the Father. He fulfilled the mission of the prophets and passed on to his disciples the mission of witnessing to him. The Church, consequently, has been entrusted with the mission of witness. In order to realize this, the Lord gave to his body the Church the Spirit of God, Who is the soul and stability of this body. This Spirit works within all the Apostles and witnesses of all time; there is no adding of a new revelation but a deepening of the existing one, the Gospel made once and for all. The message was indeed made once but it must reach all men

in all times and places, and this demands the Spirit to give the grace to transform the message to fit each new situation.” Fr. Yves Congar, OP



The Landscape of Faith: An Explorer's Guide to the Christian Creeds
By Alister McGrath

Review by J. David Moser, a PhD student in theology at Southern Methodist University (from *The Living Church*)

St. Augustine called Christians *viatores*, wayfarers, who journey through this world to their heavenly destination. Alister McGrath, the Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford, has given us a map that can assist us on the journey. His book is “a tool for study, a resource for wisdom in leading an intelligent, reflective, and grateful life of Christian discipleship” (p. xi).

McGrath's book at times has the quality of a spiritual autobiography. He tells us how he came to faith in Christ as a student at Oxford in the 1970s after years of being a staunchly committed atheist. He realized his dogmatic certainty that only the scientific method laid

claim to what is true was really an unverifiable assumption he unquestioningly held. Even atheists need to hold to certain beliefs by faith.

This fact invited him to reexamine his unquestioned assumptions about the ultimate questions and to find a coherent big picture of the world that explains the diverse aspects of human life. McGrath became a Christian, and here he commends Christianity as the explanation of the world and our lives as gifts of God (p. 90). His autobiography leads us to a central theme of the book: the nature of faith as not only assent to what is believed, but also trust in and commitment to God (pp. 52-53). God's benevolent commitment to us requires our commitment to him as we journey through this world.

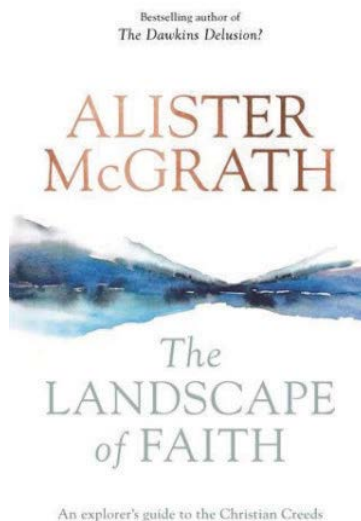
The Christian life takes place on the landscape of faith. When Christians experience salvation in Jesus Christ and begin the journey, they need a map for the way ahead. Here McGrath commends the creeds, which are "summary descriptions of the vast expanses of the landscape of faith, intended to invite us to explore further this distinctive landscape" (p. 18).

Accordingly, the book is organized according to the pattern and content of the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. Each chapter contains short biblical and theological accounts of each belief that the creed affirms.

McGrath brings up apologetic concerns in many of the chapters. In his chapter on the Trinity, for example, he responds to the charge that the doctrine is incoherent nonsense. He shows how it should be received as a mystery within the context of worship. While we cannot fully comprehend the mystery, we can grasp it within the lens of faith.

The text is remarkably clear and well-written. Furthermore, McGrath follows C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* approach in his account of Christian doctrine. Thus, nearly all of what one finds in the text is universally held by Christians.

This makes the book commendable to diverse Christian communities. Furthermore, it will be useful for preachers and catechists who need an introductory guide to core Christian doctrine for teaching purposes. It will especially connect with those who have held some of the scientific objections to religious belief that McGrath once did.





ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contact Us

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
836 West Jones Street
Livingston, Texas 77351
Church Office: 936.327.8467

For the next few weeks, we will be exploring moral theology. It is that branch of theological inquiry that studies in a systematic way the practical implications of God's revelatory intervention in Jesus Christ. It is concerned with the kind of people we ought to be and the kinds of actions we ought to perform or avoid. In pursuing its task, moral theology must draw upon every available source of understanding: scripture, tradition, relevant human sciences (such as psychology, sociology, economics), and human reason. Join us at 9:15 AM in the Parish Hall.



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF SOMEONE NEEDS A HOME VISIT

If you know of anyone who needs a home visit because they cannot get to Church, please call the Parish Office, or let Fr. Makowski know. Either Fr. Makowski or one of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors will call on them. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Makowski at 713.299.7675.

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

Praying is something that we all can do, young and old, rich and poor, tall and short. Please pray for everyone on our Prayer List.



***Every Sunday Is Bring
a Friend to Church
Sunday!***



***Don't forget to bring pork and beans
for our Mannafest outreach.***