

Bishop's May Message

May is the month of Nature's rebirth. Creation comes alive once more with buds, shoots and blossoms. With signs of new life surrounding us, it is no wonder that our culture has chosen to honor mothers in May. Mothers co-create with God to give us the gift of life. But the gifting only begins with birth: our mothers are the primary nurturers of our bodies, souls and spirits, fitting us for truly human lives. For many of us, our mothers were the primary faith-sharers, introducing us to the story of Jesus and the life of faith, working in concert with the Holy Spirit to realize our baptismal blessing. Honor your mother on May 11th.

Sunday, May 11th is a truly signal day this year. It is Mother's day, but it is also the day Christendom marks the feast of Pentecost, celebrating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our Lord's disciples. It is also the Sunday when the newly elected Anglican bishop of the Edmonton Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Jane Alexander, is consecrated at the Cathedral Church in Edmonton. I invite congregations and individuals to remember Bishop Alexander in your prayers that day. The office of bishop is a unique joy and burden, and the bearer of that office stands in need of the people's prayers. We have had very cordial relations with our full communion partners in the Anglican Dioceses of Alberta, and we look forward to the same walking and working together with Bishop Alexander. Her predecessor, Bishop Victoria Matthews, was recently elected bishop of the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand. Her installation will take place August 30th. May 11th would also be a good day to remember +Victoria in prayer: with gratitude for her ministry among us, and with prayers of blessing for the ministry she soon undertakes on the other side of the world. May 11th will be a full day – and a good one!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
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