

MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Three new reports confirm the growing spread of violence against Christians in Nigeria.

According to the latest report by the Nigerian NGO Intersociety, in the four months from January to April 2021, no fewer than 1,470 Christians have been killed.

The Dean of Sydney, the Very Reverend Kanishka Raffel, has been elected as Archbishop of Sydney, the first person from a non-European background to hold the position, and the 13th leader of the Anglican Church in Sydney since Bishop Broughton was first appointed in 1836. Archbishop-elect Raffel said. Raffel, 56, and his wife Cailey have been married for 32 years and have 2 adult daughters. Born to Sri-Lankan parents in London, Mr Raffel and his family emigrated to Australia from Canada in 1972.



Dear Parish Family:

On the day that Jesus ascended to the Father, he told his disciples that he would send the Advocate who would breathe life into them just as God had breathed heaven and earth into creation, just as God had breathed anointing upon Jesus at the baptism confirming and authorizing the completion of salvation in Jesus.

And yet again, God begins. God breathes on the disciples of Jesus and creates the holy community of the Church, the assembled people of God.

When that happened there were surprises. The very breath of God, the ἅγια πνευματώσ (hagia pneumatōs), the holy breath, the holy wind, came in as a rush of violent wind and it filled the room; that was where it started, but it did not end in that room.

And if that was not enough, the holy breath of God came upon them as fire, just as that holy pillar of fire led the Israelites through the desert, so it would lead the Church. That self-same holy breath of God could not be contained, and it spread first in Jerusalem with those tongues of fire touching each one present and they heard the Good News of what God had accomplished in Jesus, each in his own language. Each person who heard, understood. There was no barrier to God's Word made flesh, Jesus. The confusion of languages at the tower of Babel was reversed, division ceased. Salvation was open to all. No longer was there Jew or Gentile, free or slave, but all one people, the people of God, all sons and daughters, all brothers and sisters of Jesus.

That same holy breath of God that hovered over the void at the creation of the universe, and that same holy breath that hovered over Jesus at his baptism is now being breathed on ordinary men and women forming once again into words to give witness to God's mighty deeds from creation to the life giving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

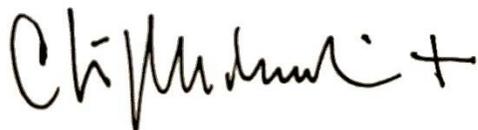
It was not a somber moment; it was not a heavy moment, it was a time of joy, of holy laughter, of holy drunkenness, the people being filled with the Holy Spirit. The whole point about Pentecost was that the disciples, up until then were hiding away in an upper room filled with fear, and at Pentecost, they were blown out on to the street by the rushing mighty wind to speak the truth of God in Christ in public, and to do so boldly, unashamed and so joyfully that they were accused of being drunk at 9 in the morning.

So many times, we followers of Jesus walk around like the frozen chosen, with such serious faces, glum, humorless, joyless. Sometimes we are simply too serious forgetting that one of the signs of the Holy Spirit is joy, JOY! Joy is present in the lives of those who are able to view earthly realities in the light of the Holy Spirit's perspective. Joy grows deeper than happiness. Happiness comes from outside of us and is fleeting. We are happy when good things happen, but when we are faced with trials, happiness eludes us. Joy, on the other hand, is rooted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. When we recognize the Holy Spirit, joy bubbles up and flows out from us.

You see, the Holy Spirit is the power of God, the power of heaven come to earth; the Holy Spirit is the power that enables us, surprises us, to share in the life of heaven, to be in the very presence of God here and now. We cannot and must not translate the message in such a way that it merely echoes the joylessness of what the culture already thinks and does. When the Holy Spirit comes, the Holy Spirit comes not to tell the world that it is all right as it is, but that God loves it so much that He wants to heal it. The Good News which is to be spoken in every local language and dialect must remain the Good News of Jesus, a word saying something unexpected, a word of mercy, of challenge, of comfort of joy. Because you have received that word of joy, like the disciples, you are called to share that joy.

Has it ever occurred to you to ask what it means that the Holy Spirit shares the reign of the Father and the Son? Ask it today, and allow that same Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen you, to infuse your heart with the fire of joy, to live in the presence of God here and now, so that you can share your joy with the world.

Your servant in Christ,

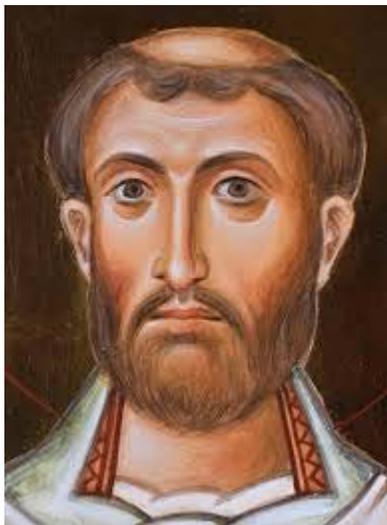
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ch Makowski +". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small cross-like mark at the end.

The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector





**JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL FOR ADULT
CHRISTIAN FORMATION ON SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM
WHERE WE ARE STUDYING THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN WITH WES AMASON.**



***FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF
THE MONTH
AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
MISSIONARY & BISHOP
May 26
By James Kiefer***

The Christian Church was established in the British Isles well before 300. Some scholars believe that it was introduced by missionaries from the Eastern or Greek-speaking half of the Mediterranean world. Celtic Christianity had its own distinctive culture, and Greek scholarship flourished in Ireland for several centuries after it had died elsewhere in Western Europe.

However, in the fifth century Britain was invaded by non-Christian Germanic tribes: the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. They conquered the native Celtic Christians (despite resistance by, among others, a leader whose story has come down to us,

doubtless with some exaggeration, as that of King Arthur), or drove them north and west into Cornwall, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. From these regions Celtic Christian missionaries returned to England to preach the Gospel to the heathen invaders. Meanwhile, the Bishop of Rome, Gregory the Great, decided to send missionaries from Rome, a group of monks led by their prior, Augustine (not to be confused with the more famous Augustine of Hippo).

They arrived in Kent (the southeast corner of England) in 597, and the king, whose wife was a Christian, allowed them to settle and preach. Their preaching was outstandingly successful, the people were hungry for the Good News of salvation, and they made thousands of converts in a short time. In 601 the king himself was converted and baptized. Augustine was consecrated bishop and established his headquarters at Canterbury. From his day to the present, there has been an unbroken succession of archbishops of Canterbury.

In 603, he held a conference with the leaders of the already existing Christian congregations in Britain, but failed to reach an accommodation with them, largely due to his own tactlessness, and his insistence (contrary, it may be noted, to Gregory's explicit advice) on imposing Roman customs on a church long accustomed to its own traditions of worship. It is said that the English bishops, before going to meet Augustine, consulted a hermit with a reputation for wisdom and holiness, asking him, "Shall we accept this man as our leader, or not?" The hermit replied, "If, at your meeting, he rises to greet you, then accept him, but if he remains seated, then he is arrogant and unfit to lead, and you ought to reject him." Augustine, alas, remained seated. It took another sixty years before the breach was healed.

Let us pray: O Lord our God, who by your Son Jesus Christ called your servant Augustine to preach the Gospel to the English people: We pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, bide your time, and see your glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Voices of Mental Health First Aid: teen Mental Health First Aid Taught Me How to Help My Friends

By Ella Vaillancourt, teen Mental Health First Aider on May 12, 2021



How do you help someone who is struggling? How do you help them without making assumptions about what they are going through, and without making it worse?

These are all questions that I learned the answers to during the teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) class.

tMHFA teaches that teens prefer to tell other teens about what they are going through. This is why it's important for us to know what to do if confronted with a situation in which we need to react and support our friends or peers.

Personally, I have never had close experiences with self-harm or suicide. However, I have friends who have experienced this. I see what my friends are going through and how hard it is on them. I wasn't sure how to react in the past. I'm thankful that now, because of tMHFA, I know how to help them if I need to.

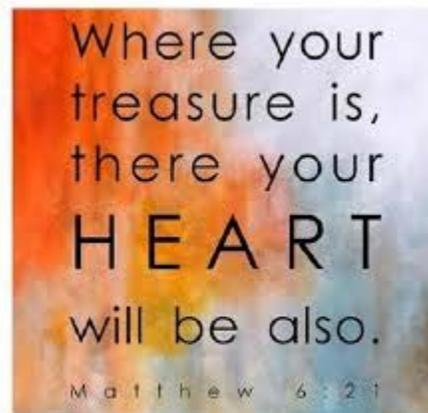
Every person is different, and their mental health journey is too. What I appreciate about tMHFA is that it teaches you how to be a trusting and supportive friend, and how to take real steps to offer help and support. It provides an Action Plan you can use in any situation and for any person who may be facing a mental health challenge. It also teaches

you where to find safe and comfortable help, whether that is an online resource, a help line, text support, or an adult in your community.

The training really focuses on why it's important to get the help of a trusted adult, and teaches you how to safely reach out to an adult in your community or school and get that help without feeling judged. Even though you might feel like talking to an adult is betraying your friend's trust, it really isn't. As a friend, you are doing what is best for that person and for you. You are helping your friend get additional support that can help them in the long term.

It's important to understand what mental health is and what to do if someone around you is struggling. This training taught me how to take care of my own mental health with healthy coping mechanisms and taught me how to be a trusting and supportive friend to people around me. Because of this training, I can #BeTheDifference and know what to do if faced with this situation.

For more information about teen Mental Health First Aid, visit [MHFA.org/teens](https://www.mhfa.org/teens).



Christ tells us: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mt. 6:21. Please remember the Parish for your annual pledge. This Parish is tremendously generous, but 2020 saw a marked downturn in giving since we were not meeting to worship together and were live-streaming our worship services.



HOSPITAL VISITS

Given COVID-19, visitations are restricted by hospitals. Nevertheless, 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. We will see if the hospital will allow Fr. Makowski to 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 in our Parish, those who have asked you to pray for them and especially those who have no one to pray for them.



***PLEASE BRING PORK & BEANS FOR
MANNAFEST***

**SHOP AT THE OASIS THE HOME OF THE BEST BARGAINS
IN POLK COUNTY**



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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WWW.STLUKESLIVINGSTON.ORG

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.07, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA PARA EL LIBRE PORTE DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LIBRE PORTE.

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.06, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO.