



A beautiful Remembrance Day was celebrated at Saint Michael and All Angels this past Sunday. The Reverend Gillian Ball put together the perfect service, prayers, sermon, even a surprise, haunting, trumpet solo by Paul Gottschalk. (Sermon follows the Communicator.) Everyone was adorned with red poppies thanks to Judy finding a stash in the office. During the “exchange of the peace” I was asked why we wear poppies and thought it a good time to remember its origins. In 1915, seeing poppies growing in battle-scarred fields and after losing a friend in Ypres, Canadian doctor, Lt. Col. John McCrae, wrote the poem “In Flanders Fields.” It has, ever since, inspired the use of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance.

*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 sunsets 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 the faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow In Flanders fields.*

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Everything about this past Sunday was lovely. Ian Thomas did a beautiful reading of another WWI poet, Wilfred Owen. Pat Manners was lector and the flowers, remnants from Billy Cross' movie premiere were stunning. The gift of the presence of so many of our Canadian and Brit friends, filling the pews with both bodies and voices, though a somber occasion, filled us with joy.



Your Communicator is thrilled to finally have the return of our wonderful church photographers Onagh Ash and Pat Manners. We have limped along without you two but what a difference it makes! Meantime Isabel Graves has been an enormous help!

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Our Hospitality Hour was, as usual, well-attended and, as always, the food was delectable. Many, many thanks and kudos to Debbie Jeffress and Isabel Graves!

After Sunday services and the Hospitality Hour several of our members joined with the San Pablo congregation serving the homeless and less fortunate at the downtown Anglican Cathedral of Saint Michael's. Please don't forget to bring your non-perishable food items, cleaning and hygiene products for donation to this important outreach program. Many thanks to Helen Millan, Amanda Hooten, Pat Manners, Cecilia Sanchez and Chris Jones for

spearheading these efforts.



Though not present for Billy Cross' movie presentation, **BILLY CROSS: A GAY MAN'S LIFE. 1945-2024**, Saturday night it was reportedly a great success! Good job Library! And thank you Billy and the Library for leaving the beautiful flowers for us to enjoy!



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We welcomed back Mungo Lockhart, Gonzalo Celorio, Frances Bunker, Patricia Edelen among others this past Sunday. Great to see you! It was also reassuring to see Father Doug in the congregation as he heals from his open heart surgery. We pray for his full recovery.

Senior Warden Judy Frothingham reports that the sold-out house concert she hosted in October donated 12,000 to the church. Well done. Get your tickets now for the concert being hosted December 14 by Onagh Ash. The inspiring girl's choir Onagh sponsors, ContraCanto, will be performing and it is sure to be the hot December ticket in town. Patron Tickets include dinner- \$1500, General Admission- \$250. Tickets will be available within a week on our website. saintmichaelcuernavaca.org

The poster for the concert 'Soneto de la Noche' features a photograph of a choir and orchestra performing on a stage. The text on the poster includes the title 'Soneto de la Noche' and 'CONCIERTO DE DÍA 2024'. It lists the musical director as 'MTRA. ANDREA CARR' and provides two performance dates: 'MIÉRCOLES 18:30 HRS 22/NOV' at 'LUGAR CASONA SPENCER' and 'VIÉRNES 20:00 HRS 23/NOV' at 'PARROQUIA MARÍA MADRE DE LA MISERICORDIA'. At the bottom, it lists the ticket prices: '\$250 PESOS GENERAL / \$200 PRE-VENTA' and provides contact information: 'WHATSAPP: 328 956 9243 & 393 760 1329' and 'NOTICIAS: @SANTO.MICHAEL.PUNO'.

Coming up soon, one can attend either or both Deo Gracias concerts. *Concierto Soneto de la Noche*, Friday, November 22, 6:30PM at La Casona Spencer or Saturday, November 23, 8PM, at Parroquia Maria Madre de la Misericordia, Rio Tamazula 25, Vistahermosa. Under the direction of Maestra Andrea Carr, Saint Michael's retired music director, Deo Gracias continues to offer gorgeous and inspiring music to our community. Tickets are available at Cafe Cons (Downtown and Rio Mayo) and by WhatsApp using the information on the poster to your left.



SPONSOR

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Last Sunday Senior Warden Judy Frothingham presented the brass plaque that will be used to celebrate the newly designed gardens given in the name of Hank Frothingham, her beloved late husband. We are the welcome recipients of this generous major improvement to our campus. The garden both enhances Saint Michael's and allows us to minimize our use of the valuable resource of water. Thank you to Junior Warden, John Stelly, for designing the gardens and overseeing their completion!!!

***“All things bright and beautiful... the Lord God made us all.
Tarry a bit here to enjoy the birds, butterflies, bees and plants that
complement one another as we do.***

***This garden is dedicated in memory of Henry Hoyt Frothingham
John Keith Stelly, Junior Warden, Designer”***

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ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
Anglican and Episcopal Church
Cuernavaca, Mx.

Friday's club!

10:00 - 12:00 pm

- Meditation
- Chair exercises
- Contests
- Crafts
- Board games
- Dance
- Bring your lunch!

BILINGUAL SERVICE

\$100 pesos per class

Info with Lorena Molina
777 212 9575

Minerva I esq. Eros, Delicias, Cuernavaca Morelas.

Under the leadership of Lorena Molina, Friday Senior Club (10-12) continues to grow. Thank you Lorena, Amanda Hooten and Pat Manners. Thank you too to Ivonne Cortinas who manages to create all manner of creative posters for the activities of Saint Michael's.

Lorena is still looking for part time employment either providing respite care for a senior or helping with light housework. Please WHATSAPP her directly at 777- 212-9575.

Lorena and her son also provide an important annual outreach for the poor. If you have clothing you would like to donate, they clean the clothing, pack it in plastic bags and donate it to the homeless. Thank you Lorena for doing this good

work and for maintaining the parish prayer list. Do you know someone who needs to be added, please WhatsApp Lorena directly.

Helen Millan is graciously providing Thanksgiving Dinner at her flagship restaurant Helen's Pasteleria, 2PM on Thanksgiving Day, one sitting, please make your reservation directly with her at WhatsApp 777-374-4697.

Wouldn't you like to be in the choir for Christmas? If so, please show up for church at 930AM and start rehearsing with the choir. We need your voice!!! You do not need to read music to be in the choir!

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Reminder of Thursday Yoga with Ann. 11-12:30 and Meditation with Ann on Tuesdays, 10-11, followed by the Library Tea.

Wednesday there is Rosie Land's Alexander Method, 11-12 at the church and **Charlie Goff's Mexican Current Events at 5PM** at Cemanahuac, 4 San Juan, Colonia Las Palmas. No one could be better qualified to lead this class than Charlie and those of us who attend wouldn't miss it. If you're interested in Mexican history and/or Mexican Current Events, give it a try. You won't be disappointed.

The Reverend Victor Hugo will be with us to celebrate the Eucharist next Sunday, November 17. We always look forward to his visits and the thoughts he leaves with us. On November 24, Father Doug hopes to return to serve and on December 1 we look forward to Bishop Enrique Treviño's annual visit. This is a red letter occasion for us and we hope to have the pews full and the choir singing their hearts out in celebration of his visit.

Long-time SMAAA member Susan Kirago has been missing from the choir loft for several months while pursuing a professional course that occupied her weekends. We are delighted to announce that Suzie will be back with us for Christmas and that she and Joaquin are again taking charge of our poinsettia tree. What would Christmas be without that beautiful addition to our sanctuary? Thank you Suzie and Joaquin!

See following page for Gillian's Sermon.

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Gillian's Homily for Remembrance Day.

SERVICE Nov. 10, 2024 Mk 12:38-44 Pent. 25 Mission of St. Francis, Tepoztlan

The Rev. Gillian Neville-Ball



(Celtic - Iona) **It is so wonderful to know of the spirit which you sent, and which even now invades our hearts.**

By whose invading even now we know that our thinking, feeling and willing are made new.

Reflection: Today's Gospel story describes the actions of a poor widow in the temple who sacrifices what little she has. In the midst of a temple filled with people - and overawed by important dignitaries such as the wealthy and the scribes strolling around in opulent robes, being greeted effusively as they passed, one wonders how Jesus even noticed her. The spectacle was filled with leading actors in a play and dazzling everyone with their resplendent costumes. The widow was like an extra or a cameo part - someone who would fade into the background scenery - her costume ill-fitting and drab in contrast to the notable colourful characters that surrounded her.

She would never have thought that anyone would notice her as she unobtrusively approached the temple treasury - perhaps with a moment of hesitation before unclenching her hand to let two

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small coins slip into the coffer. It was probably all she had. She may have been without food or other resources. Yet she donated her last small coins to God in a temple where her presence was ignored. After losing her husband, she had become a nobody in the eyes of society. She not only lost her place and her name - but she had also become invisible. No-one saw her anymore - except for Jesus.

This incident shows how Christ commended small efforts which can often be appreciated more than abundant contributions. This was because the widow's mite came from the heart. It was not a duty or an obligation. It was not carried out conspicuously so that others could appreciate a generous contribution. It was something given as an unselfish act. It was a personal sacrifice.

Tomorrow is Remembrance Day. As we reflect on sacrifices made, we have paused this morning for a moment of silence to give thanks for offerings made, large and small, that brought freedom to those oppressed and in danger. Tomorrow there will be crowds attending special services throughout Canada and other countries to pay their respects to those who died in conflict. Today people gathered at the war memorial in London to do the same. The wounded and affected will also be remembered; the families left behind; the victims of war and intolerance; those who suffered from the holocaust and in camps throughout Europe and in Japan; the veterans who are still with us and who recall loss of friends and family. We recognize those who risked everything in the face of despotism. Like the 2 coins from the widow, countless people gave what they had and surrendered everything of personal value. And so, we give a heartfelt salutation for everything that was done to release much of the world from bondage and cruelty.

We also remember those who died in Korea and Vietnam and peace keepers who have lost their lives in distant places. We pray for all who are being affected so severely by conflicts in several countries and places at present. Our hearts go out to families who have lost loved ones amid the turmoil and hatred and who continue to suffer loss each and every day. We give thanks to those who minister to the wounded and the dying and who struggle with a lack of medicines and resources to meet overwhelming demands. And we pray for peace.

Unlike the widow lost in the crowd of people in the temple, we acknowledge those we recall today. A few were well known people, perhaps wealthy and opulent, who also gave up what they had to fight in the various struggles. But the majority were ordinary people who put their two coins into the box toward salvation from oppression. Perhaps some are invisible to us because many were unknown soldiers

buried in unknown places or nameless people simply discarded in the aftermath of conflict. The overwhelming numbers of casualties overwhelm us. We cannot begin to comprehend the losses. But

personal stories bring us some semblance of the courage, resolve and compassionate acts that led to individual survival. It is those few who lead us to understand something of the turmoil endured and the valour displayed by so many.

During a clergy visit to Israel some years ago, I visited Yad Vashem Memorial for holocaust victims. One of the most poignant and inexpressible was that erected for children. There were broken columns at the entrance signifying broken lives cut off so tragically. I clearly recall entering a dark room. Blindly reaching for a handrail to guide one through, I could only see candles reflected in mirrors placed in such a way that one was encircled by the wavering flames - like a sky full of summer stars. As one moved slowly through the darkened space, a voice recorded the names of those who had perished. Needless to say, it was an emotional experience.

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The most heartbreaking losses in war are those of children. Our hearts grieve for parents in Gaza and Lebanon and Israel and Sudan and all the many troubled places that cause such incredible distress. Deprived of life and a future, we mourn their passing. We hold the innocent victims in our hearts with poignant tears. And so - we pray for peace.

As we return to today's Gospel passage, we see how Jesus took the time to look carefully around him in the temple. We wonder what caught his attention to the widow who was so invisible to others. He noted her touching sacrifice and drew the attention of his disciples to it. He praised her gesture. He compared the widow's sacrificial coins to the donations of those with their opulence and self-importance. He did not dismiss the gifts from the wealthy but pointed out that the most insignificant person in that crowd was a major contributor. He thus revealed the upside down values of God's Kingdom – where the "*last shall be first*" and "*the great will be servants of all*". This was his last chance to stress this to his disciples because in four days he would be dead - he would be offering up his own two coins of life - he would be sacrificing all he had for a corrupt world. The widow didn't withhold anything from God and neither did Christ.

As we reflect on our moment's silence today for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of peace and freedom, we again recognize that they did not withhold anything. They gave all they had when they willingly fought against the powers of oppression, intolerance and hatred. We recall that we indeed owe them a debt beyond words for what they contributed to our wellbeing. We pray for reconciliation and charity in our troubled world. We pray for peace.

For us the message of the Gospel is apparent - God asks us to offer what we have with devotion. We are thankful not to be caught up in the chaos of war, but it is a message for us in daily living. We have heard this teaching before: don't let possessions rule our lives; don't let self-importance rule our lives; don't let selfishness and greed rule our lives. The widow's sacrificial act indeed exemplifies the Christian practice of giving. She sets the pattern in which we are to regard our belongings in relation to God. We are reminded to make sacrifices for the sake of others and the welfare of our world. At its heart this story speaks of donating time and effort and coins to further God's cause and to help those in need. It asks that we contribute what we can to the demands around us - that we pay heed to the invisible among us - that we be willing to give generously and that we give what we can - gently from the heart. **Amen**

(Ministry Matter) **O Lord, you graciously pour out your blessings on us. Your gifts surround us. Despite our abundance, help us see the widow's gift, for we long to give as she did, gladly giving all she had. All we have is a gift from your hand. Help us loosen our hands, for in giving freely to you, we gain the opportunity to live abundant lives! Amen**

Affirmation: (Celtic) We believe in God who is love, whose love is manifest in all Creation, in our lives, and in all people.

We follow Christ, who embodied God's love. In his life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his granting to us of his Spirit, he filled us with that love as well.

We live by the Spirit, the presence of God's love in us. In that love we participate in the Church, Body of Christ, in loving God by loving our neighbours through our prayers, our presence, our gifts

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and our service. Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God. We thank God, and ask God's blessings, that we may love in the name of Christ and the power of the Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

Intercessions: *(Celtic)* We bless you and thank you, O God, for you have filled creation with the glory of life that glows. We bless you for the light of the sun and the moon and the stars, for the cleansing goodness of the waters We bless you for the goodness that grows from the earth, which nourishes us and brings us life. In remembering with thanks, the times and places of plenty and well-being in our lives, we stand also in prayer with all who are denied these things, and we ask that all people not be forsaken in time of trouble. Let the cry of the poor be heard, O God, in heaven and on earth; let the hungry be fed and the oppressed be set free. May those in our community who are sick, or suffering know healing in body and soul, Support them with your love and lead us to be healers for all we encounter, in the name of Christ. O God of all hope. Let nations at war cease their strife, neighbours in conflict stop their arguments, and loved ones find peace at home. Look, Lord, on your children, who love your name and need your care and your comfort. Let our hands bear your love to the world that all may know your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

(The High Calling) **O Lord, I know that, when compared to all of the people on this earth, I am among the wealthy. How I thank you for the financial blessings you have given me! Yet there are times when it seems as if my charitable contributions make such a small difference when compared with rich stars and giant corporations. When I feel inconsequential, I am inclined to hang onto what I have rather than sharing it. Forgive me, Lord, when I am not a faithful steward of the resources you have entrusted to me. Thank you for the example of the widow and her "mites." May she inspire me to give as I am able. Help me, Lord, to know what it means for me to give generously and sacrificially. Amen.**

(Anglican) **Loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all we have is a gift from you. In faith and love, help us to do your will. We are listening, Lord God. Speak your words into the depths of our souls, that we may hear you clearly. We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home, at work,– to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us and the fervour to carry out our good intentions. We offer our gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbor. Help us to reach out to others as you our God have reached out to us. Amen.**

Generous Giving *(Katherine Hawker)*

Two copper coins_echo beyond time_abundance yielded drought_poverty bloomed to generosity.

Two copper coins_echo beyond time_the need to protect_confronts the call to relinquish.

Two copper coins_echo beyond time_redefining worth_as a place in the heart.

Two copper coins_echo beyond time. Amen

Blessing: *(Celtic)* Walk with us, Saviour of the poor, be a light on our way,
travel beside the weary, fill the broken-hearted with hope and heal the nations,
that all may walk in the light of the glory of God.

+And the blessing of our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life be with us now and always. **Amen**