

# Sanctity of Life Sunday—May 2, 2021

## “BECAUSE HE LIVES ... WE CAN!”

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Ministry:

In the midst of the chaos of COVID-19 restrictions and the ever increasing stress upon every aspect of our lives, Sanctity of Life Sunday may seem like just ‘one more thing’ on your ‘to do list’!

But, as we learned from Rev. Chad Graham, (a priest and a lawyer) on our last Bishops/Clergy zoom meeting, our culture is now embracing MAiD as ‘medical care’. This offers each of us a cultural solution to our problems and our pain. It offers ‘individual autonomy, ‘dignity and ‘control’. Yes, we are all vulnerable: our parishioners, our families, our friends, our neighbours, and our fellow Canadians!

We learned from Rev. Rick Bergh, (a priest, thanatologist, grief counsellor) that the tsunami of MAiD grief is already being experienced by an increasing number of individuals: the ‘patient’, their caregivers, families and the wider community. The ‘wake’ of this ‘autonomous’ choice affects many. In his booklet ‘Shepherding the Dying’, Rev. Rick shares with us practical ways and means to shepherd and pastor our congregations and the wider community during such difficult situations.

As ANiC’s Canon for the Protection and Promotion of Life, I said I would share more details and resources to assist you and your parish in your preparations for this special Sunday. As His Church, we are all called to protect and promote Life! Because He Lives – We Can!

In His Mercy & Grace,  
Canon Vicky Hedelius  
[vickyhedelius@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyhedelius@hotmail.com)



## Sanctity of Life Sunday Package

### 1. Theme: ‘Because He Lives – We Can’

- Using this well known Gaither Hymn, you and your congregation *can* explore more ways to infuse His Mercy and Grace into everyday living. (Page 3)
- Together, as a Diocese, we *can* continue to equip every believer in every church to do at least one thing every day to protect life!

### 2. Tools

- Poster – Question & Life Affirming Response (Page 2)
- Music video of ‘Because He Lives’ with lyrics (Page 3)
- Homily Suggestion – ‘Because He Lives – We Can’ (Page 4)
- A young couple’s Letter to ANiC’s Young People “Why Should Young People Be Life-Affirming?” (Page 5)
- Life Affirming prayers/liturgies (Page 6 & 7)

### 3. Digging Deeper & Staying Connected

- Anglicans for Life Canada ‘Embrace the Journey Program’ details (Page 8)
- M.A.G.I. Matters! – Information & video (Page 9)



WHAT IF  
EVERY BELIEVER  
IN EVERY CHURCH  
DID

**ONE THING  
EVERY DAY  
TO PROTECT  
LIFE?**

BECAUSE HE LIVES  
...WE CAN!

# BECAUSE HE LIVES ... WE CAN!

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives!

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!*

And then one day, I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then, as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!*

## Video with Lyrics

Gaither Song: **Because He Lives**

Performed by John, Jane & John Matthew  
Goodwin ([www.worshipwithus.ca](http://www.worshipwithus.ca))

<https://youtu.be/vhmy-6VVIQE>



## We can give pregnant women:

- Courage to give birth to their babies
- Knowledge that adoption is a real option
- Confidence that they will have the provisions they need during and after pregnancy
- The assurance they are not alone



## We can:

- share His Truth that Every life is valuable.
- share His Mercy and Grace with each person we meet.
- be spiritual medics bringing Christ's compassionate care to the terminally ill, mentally ill, elderly and lonely.
- share that all lives are precious and no person is a burden or forgotten or "better off dead".
- share the Way, the Truth and the Life to eternal Life!



**“BECAUSE HE LIVES ... WE CAN!**  
**Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott AFLC Chaplin**



“... the doors being shut for fear of the Jews came Jesus and stood among them and said, “Peace be unto you.” Fear is a biological implant, preparing us for defensive action when our life is threatened. To preserve our life, depending on what species we are, we will stand still, change colour, flee or aggressively attack (there are others!).

Unfortunately for the human species too often fear simply means impotent paralysis, serving no life preserving purpose at all. We passively wait for Whatever It Is to devour us! This was certainly the situation of the disciples on Easter Day, they were overwhelmed by the death of Jesus and, unlike the women, took no action whatsoever. Sadly this is not unlike the situation of many Christians today. Be it COVID Isolation, actions by the state, or social conventions, we just hunker down and wait for Our Fate.

But the risen Jesus, as He did with the disciples, stands among us and says, “Peace,” which means Well Being, Courage, All is Well! And as He did with the disciples, He breathes upon us, and the Rest Is History! And as Scripture says, “then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord,” and the world changed as a result.

As I said, we certainly have reason to be overwhelmed by events we thought impossible a generation ago or even a year ago. Certainly in the area of Life Issues abortion or euthanasia seems the only way out for some frightened people. They accept death as the solution.

But Jesus, not death, is the Saviour. He by the power of the Holy Spirit changes us, preserves and enhances human life and enables us to deal with and celebrate the true gift of life. So let us be of good cheer, keep the Faith, and encourage the faint-hearted.

We at AFLC have some programmes to help keep Fear at bay, and we commend them to your attention, particularly at this time. Christians with the courage and purpose of the Risen Christ are the antidote for this time, and no waiting is necessary!



## A Young Couple's Message to ANiC's Young People "Why Should Young People Be Life-Affirming?"

What does it mean to be pro-life? Does it mean imposing our preference for birth upon pregnant women—many of whom are our peers—with no concern for what they want? Concerning the issue of euthanasia and MAiD, is being pro-life about forcing dying people to continue suffering? Many in our society seem to think so, but these descriptions are slanted and miss the bigger picture. The heart of the pro-life position is not the denial of anything, but the affirmation of the sanctity of all human life. Every single person is made in the image of God and has priceless value in him- or herself. Our value comes not from what we do, but who we are.

With this conviction:

- we fight against slavery and any notion that humans can be treated as property.
- we support health-care workers who help people live longer, healthier lives.
- we affirm that unborn babies and suffering people are genuine human beings whose lives cannot be ended because of anyone's free choice.

In a society where many secular people assume that any decent person is pro-choice, we might want to keep our pro-life views to ourselves. But real lives are affected, and action is needed. It is also important that we do not fall into the trap of thinking that nothing we do will help. There are many ways to help real people, and on the intellectual side, you might be surprised by the openness some of our peers have to civil conversations about life issues. Finally, do not be deceived by the stereotype of passionate pro-lifers as shouting, intolerant maniacs. Pro-life convictions can and should work themselves out in loving, gracious, and judicious ways, and being pro-life does not mean constantly bellowing your opinions from the rooftops. If you want to make a difference, speak with your rector about what you and other members of your parish can do.

***Dave and Michelle from Ontario***



**Sample Prayers** *Your congregation has your own style of corporate prayer. Here are a few special prayers. For more prayers and collects see ACNA Book of Common Prayer (pg 641-690)*

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**Forgive Us Lord** *Living Water Healing Streams*  
Contact; [director@livingwaterhealingstreams.ca](mailto:director@livingwaterhealingstreams.ca)

*"How manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground."  
(Psalm 104:24, 30)*

We join together as Your Church to give You all praise and honour and to confess that in many ways we have not lived up to Your charge to care for and support the vulnerable, the unborn, the marginalized and the infirm. We also confess that through our mindless actions we have harmed and not helped Your good creation. Forgive us when we fail to see You in our neighbour and in the creation that surrounds us. Lead us now, Holy Spirit, that we might repent and rejoice in all our Father's good works. In our brokenness help us always to love and celebrate all who bear His image. We pray this in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

### Prayer for

*(Anglicans for Life)*

Lord God, thank You for creating human life in Your image. Thank You for my life and the lives of those I love. Thank You for teaching us through Scripture the value You place on life. Help me to uphold the sanctity of life in my church and community. Give me the strength to stand up to those forces that seek to destroy the lives of those most vulnerable, the unborn, the infirm and the elderly. Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of respecting life. I commit myself to protecting and defending the sacredness of life according to Your will, through Christ our Lord. Amen

### For Those suffering from Covid-19

Almighty and immortal God, the giver of life and health, we beseech you in your loving mercy to hear our prayers for those suffering from Covid-19, that by your blessing upon them and those who minister to them of your healing gifts, they may be restored to health of body and mind, and give thanks to you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Healer. Amen.

### For Front Line Workers

Protect and prosper, O Lord, all those who labour at tasks of danger and difficulty, especially those in essential services and healing ministries. May they be preserved in safety and health, and grant that, knowing the dangers they are in, ever take thought for one another and be sustained by a sure trust in you; through Jesus Christ our gracious Lord. Amen.

### For Trust & Confidence

Almighty God, who is afflicted in the afflictions of your people, regard with your tender compassion those in anxiety and distress, bear their sorrows and their cares, supply all their manifold needs, and help both them and us to put our whole trust and confidence in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Make Us Instruments of Your Peace

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, unity; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen*

*(attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)*

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you at this time the poor, despairing, those in pregnancy and alone, the frail and the elderly, and above all those with no one to care for them. Comfort and heal them and above all make us and all your Church instruments of grace to them. Grant this for the sake of your Son, who became poor and outcast for us. Amen.

O God our Saviour, who by your holy prophets taught your people to seek the welfare of the communities in which they live in exile, we commend to you our neighbourhoods to your loving care that they may be kept free of selfishness and lack of charity. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others that we may create communities of love and mercy where your will may be done, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Intercessions

**Sample Intercessions** *Here are a few intercessions based on AFL prayers*

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Leader: Lord, strengthen and protect those who minister to the afflicted, neglected and broken

**People: Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: Lord, give to your bishops, ordained leaders, and all the people of God wisdom and courage to stand for your life-giving Truth

**People: Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: Lord, empower your people through your Holy Spirit to be agents of love, offering your gospel of everlasting life to transform our world

**People: Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: Lord, create repentant hearts in all those who promote and profit by the exploitation of others and by the power of the culture of death

**People: Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: Lord, help us to encourage one another in all good works that you have prepared for us to walk in

**People: Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: Grant us, Lord, these our prayers which we offer to you on behalf of your world in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen**

## **AN INTERCESSION FOR LIFE**

(\*response : Grant them Your Mercy) (AFL)

For those who have grown old, are lonely and tempted to die, that God will grant them patient endurance to do His will, we pray to the Lord\*

**Grant them Your Mercy**

For those who are alone and afraid, for those who have no place to call home, for those abandoned in nursing homes, for those mothers who are on their own, we pray to the Lord\*

**Grant them Your Mercy**

For the children of our land, especially those who are forgotten or neglected, we pray to the Lord\*

**Grant them Your Mercy**

For all who work to uphold the sanctity of human life, we pray to the Lord\*

**Grant them Your Mercy**

For those who work giving assistance to all those we have mentioned, we pray to the Lord\*

**Grant them Your Mercy**

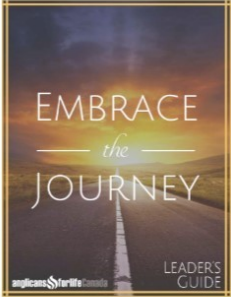
Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Embrace the Journey

**The Church helping people age with grace and die in faith.**

## EMBRACE THE JOURNEY



**Canadian Edition**

We 'have created this curriculum because it is important for the Church to help people age with grace and die in faith. As our Creator, God is interested in every season of our life, and, through His Church, God equips both ordained and laity to help people get to the end of life and be able to say with the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy: **'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith'. 2 Tim 4:7**

- Develop a deeper understanding of death from a biblical perspective
- Identify specific ways you or a loved one can prepare for aging and dying
- Appreciate the joy and beauty of aging and develop a deeper love and respect for elderly family and friends
- Recognize methods to hasten death that are becoming more accepted in our culture
- Provide practical help to those around you so they can age with grace and die with faith
- Practically prepare for death by:
  - completing the included Finishing Life Booklet
    - values & preferences for medical care
    - critical personal information & financial data
  - signing a Power of Attorney or a Protective Medical Decisions Document
  - updating and signing a Will
  - discussing your end-of-life wishes and goals with family or valued friends

### What you will need...



Course Structure	Leader's or Participant's Guide	Finishing Life Booklet	Videos
<b>Individual</b>	<b>Leader's Guide</b> • 1 Physical Copy <i>/or/</i> • 1 PDF (Digital)	<b>One Booklet</b> • 1 Physical Copy <i>/or/</i> • PDF (Digital)	<b>Video Series</b> • 1 Physical DVD <i>/or/</i> • Online Access (Personal use only)
<b>Couple</b>	<b>1 Leader's Guide (shared)</b> • 1 Physical Copy <i>/or/</i> • 1 PDF (Digital)	<b>2 Booklets</b> • 2 Physical Copies <i>/or/</i> • 1 PDF (Digital: duplicated)	<b>Video Series</b> • Physical DVD <i>/or/</i> • Online Access (Couple's personal use only)
<b>Group</b> <i>Purchasing can be done by:</i> ♦ each member individually or ♦ one group member (please get assistance below)	<b>1 Leader's Guide (leader) &amp; 1 Participant's Guide (per member other than leader)</b> • 1 Physical Copy per person <i>/or/</i> • 1 PDF (Digital) per person	<b>1 Booklet per person</b> • 1 Physical Copy per person <i>/or/</i> • 1 PDF (Digital) per person	<b>Video Series</b> • Shared or Purchased Physical DVD <i>/or/</i> • Online Access/Leader (Purchased only to lead sessions. Individual participants may purchase their own physical DVD or Online Access for personal use)



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**Shopping Page:** [Shopping – Anglicans for Life Canada](#)

[www.anglicansforlifecanada.com](http://www.anglicansforlifecanada.com)



# M.A.G.I. Mercy And Grace Infusion for Life



Developed for God's Purpose of connecting, equipping and empowering Christians as the body of Christ, to uphold the sanctity of human life.

As our lives have been infused with His Mercy and Grace, He is calling us to action.

## M.A.G.I. & Spiritual Medics

*Infuse His Mercy and Grace by:*

- ♦ **inviting** biblically grounded discussions in our faith communities about the hard questions of life.
- ♦ **investing** to infuse prayer, and bible study into daily living; individuals and communities can be better equipped spiritual medics and Life Affirming Churches.
- ♦ **investing** in excellent and relevant resources and programs to better understand the local, national and worldwide life situations through a biblical world view.

*Infuse His Mercy and Grace into human life from conception to natural death*

M.A.G.I. Video Introduction:

Homepage: [www.anglicansforlifecanada.com](http://www.anglicansforlifecanada.com)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/538816910>

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