



What's happening in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

November 2025 to January 2026

November: Archbishop's Dinner in Grande Prairie

The 2025 Archbishop's Dinner was held on November 28th, organized by Deanery 3 and hosted at St. Joseph Catholic Church (Tranquille Hall) in Grande Prairie.

The evening included a delicious supper, an energetic live auction, Archbishop Duval's insightful talk on the theme "Called to Serve, Anointed to Lead", and much more. We offer a special thanks to all the volunteers, donors and guests who helped make this dinner a grand success! See more photos from the event by scanning the QR code.



Pictures:



November: Passing of Fr. Julien Benedict Mary

It was with great sadness that we announced the death of Fr. Julien Benedict Mary, who passed away on Saturday, November 29th, 2025. Fr. Julien was 79 years old. He was ordained in 1974 and has served in our archdiocese since 2008.

The funeral Mass for Fr. Julien Benedict Mary was celebrated on Monday, December 8th at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grande Prairie. We pray for Fr. Julien, that he be welcomed into the arms of the God he served, and we pray for his family and friends, that they will be consoled at this time.

View Fr. Julien's
wake, funeral and
burial:



Learn more about
Fr. Julien's life:



December: A warm welcome to Fr. Douglas James

In December, we welcomed to our archdiocese Fr. Douglas James, a priest from the Diocese of Trincomalee-Batticaloa in Sri Lanka. He is serving in Immaculate Conception Church in Sexsmith and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Bezanson. We thank Fr. James for his service and witness!

"In my short time here in the Parish of Sexsmith, I have already felt the deep faith and warmth of the community," said Fr. James. "My hope is to help the people I serve encounter the living Jesus—so that together, we may experience the wonder and miracle of the priesthood to which I have been called."



January: Archbishop's Levee on New Years Day

The annual tradition of the Archbishop's Levee was held on January 1st, 2026, hosted at the chancery office in Grande Prairie. This event offered people the chance to meet and converse with Archbishop Charles Duval and enjoy refreshments and cheer.

We thank everyone who joined Archbishop Duval for the annual Levee! It was a particularly snowy day, with close to 40 visitors attending this year's Levee.



Pictures from
the Levee:



January: Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year comes to a close

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year officially ended with the closing of the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on January 6th – the feast of the Epiphany.

In our archdiocese, it has certainly been an eventful year with many celebrations. Alongside the many things we did to celebrate the Jubilee Year, we also experienced many milestones in 2025. We welcomed our new archbishop Charles Duval, bid a fond farewell to Archbishop Pettipas, ordained Thomas Wollis to the transitional diaconate, held an archdiocesan-wide pilgrimage of hope, organized various youth retreats, and celebrated a Jubilee Year Mass in the central heart of our archdiocese - St. John the Baptist Cathedral in McLennan. We thank everyone who helped make this Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year a most momentous and special year for our archdiocese.

January: Fr. Cyril Joseph retires to care home

In early January, Fr. Cyril Joseph retired to the Grande Prairie Care Centre. Due to mobility issues and continuing health concerns, Fr. Cyril will receive full-time care at the centre.

Fr. Cyril was ordained a priest in 1978, and has served in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan since 2005. He has served as pastor in the communities of Beaverlodge, Hythe, Rio Grande, Spirit River, Rycroft, Wanham, Silver Valley, Peace River and Cadotte Lake. He also served as the director of the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Let's offer a prayer for Fr. Cyril's continued health and comfort in his retirement.

