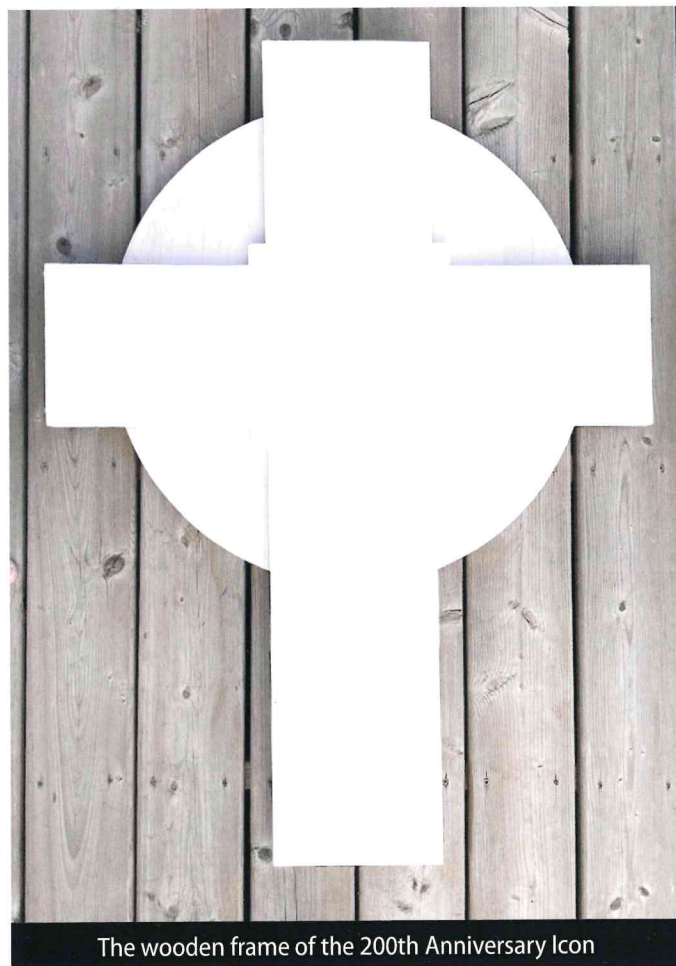


The 200th Anniversary Icon in process

THE CREATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY ICON

An Icon is a spiritual work of art created after many hours of prayer, fasting, and contemplation of scripture. The lengthy process is referred to as the writing of an icon. The images and design expressed in the icon depict a visual representation of the Word of God, and it takes months or even years to complete. Once completed, the icon receives a sacramental blessing of Holy Water, Oil of Chrism, and Incense, transforming the wood and paint into a holy object. This blessing confers on the icon, anointing for use as an object of veneration, aiding the faithful in contemplation and worship of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

An icon is the Bible in colours



The wooden frame of the 200th Anniversary Icon

For centuries, Sacred Scripture was not accessible to many people due to the scarcity of printed books and the inability of many to read. The devotion of praying before an icon dates back to the early church and continues to inspire deep sentiments of union with Christ, the Word. Every detail on the surface of the icon has a purpose and meaning as set out in the canon of the Byzantine tradition that guides the writing of the icon.

Iconography is sacred art. Holy icons are a timeless phenomenon of the revelation of God, represented by colors, shapes, lines, and other elements of art. The most important principle of their creation is adherence to the established rules of writing icons. Thus, the iconographer strictly follows the Christian Tradition and the canons of iconography. This is why an icon is the Bible in colors

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston, an icon is being written on the theme, "To know Christ and the power of His resurrection" (Phil.3:10). It will be consecrated and installed in December 2025 at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Kingston. The faithful are invited to spend time before the icon, read and contemplate the images, and accept the invitation to come to know Him and the power of His resurrection in a deeply personal manner. A booklet will accompany the icon for those who wish to learn more about the symbols, colours, and composition used in the writing process.