

Bishop
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THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE *Anglican Church of Canada*

March 16, 2020

COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Further to my Pastoral Letters dated March 7 and 14, I write to further update you regarding our diocesan response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Even though Saskatchewan has just one confirmed and six presumptive cases, all of which contracted the virus outside of our province, the decision from our Premier and the Chief Medical Officer is that schools and other establishments be closed immediately and certainly by the end of the week.

As a matter of extreme caution, and after consultation with the diocesan executive committee and Saskatchewan bishops, I suspend, with immediate effect, all regular church services, study groups, fundraising events, and other social gatherings in the Anglican churches of the diocese of Qu'Appelle.

At such a time as this, the most important thing for us is to stay calm, to not be afraid, to be safe, and to pray. We will get through this!

Your clergy and vestry are encouraged to keep up to date with current government directives and to assist their community and health authority in any way possible. Above all, they are to encourage safe practices for themselves, their congregations and those most in need.

Each congregation is asked to develop a plan for ongoing pastoral care. At times of isolation, ways of keeping in contact with all parishioners and those most at risk is paramount, as is assisting with the delivery of much needed supplies to those of our neighbours in isolation.

For a time we might not have a church building to go to but we can still be the church. Care for neighbour is vital but so is worship so I encourage all to engage in prayer. Our God has led his people through many times like this in our history and God will lead us through this pandemic.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch. I will be arranging to speak to all the clergy this week to discuss many matters, including online worship services. As well, your Executive Committee and myself will be meeting regularly to review our pandemic response.

I remain yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Hardwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

The Rt. Revd. Rob Hardwick

A prayer from the Book of Alternative Services p737:

Faithful God, the shelter of all who hope in you, may those who seek your face be set free from fear and distress, and come to see your goodness in the land of the living; through Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. Amen.