



# ANGLICAN EAST NL

## MEMO to the Diocese

June 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

As you may have heard today, the Chief Medical Officer announced that the Province will be entering Level 2 on June 25, 2020 which is earlier than expected. We know that according to the guidelines for this Level that churches will be permitted to reopen with restrictions. These restrictions are still not known as they have not been communicated to the Diocese and other faith communities.

In preparation for this, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Diocesan Executive has been finalizing a Diocesan Plan for the reopening of our church buildings and the hope was to have this Plan released this week along with a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop. However, the Bishop was recently contacted to participate in a conference call with the Chief Medical Officer and other Provincial and faith leaders on Tuesday, June 23 to discuss the specifics on the restrictions for reopening which are vital for the completion of our own Diocesan Plan. The Ad Hoc Committee believes that before we can release our Plan, we need to listen to the Provincial Health authorities first to ensure we have as much information as possible.

Therefore, it is our goal to have the Diocesan Plan for reopening ready to be released with the Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 after this meeting with the Province. To be clear, this does not mean that any of our church buildings will be permitted to reopen on that same date. Most likely, the reopening of our church buildings will take place sometime in September because the Diocesan Plan will take time to implement effectively. We need to ensure that every parish and every rector has had ample time to study the Diocesan Plan and build up a local leadership team to put the Plan into practice. Given that we are now in Summer when traditionally our clergy take their holidays and our congregational numbers decline, it is simply not the most practical time to reopen. We must make sure that the health and safety of all those who enter our buildings are the main priority. We should not rush to reopen when we are not ready.

So, we will know more next week and once we do, we will release our Plan. After some study by the clergy and parishes over the Summer, the Ad Hoc welcomes your thoughts and ideas on how to implement it at the local parish level. This will be a "living document" that requires your input and assistance. However, at the same time, we will not waiver from the official health protocols and guidelines which affect us all. The bottom line is that we have to ensure that everyone is protected and kept safe.

May God bless us as we continue and this journey together.

In Christ,

Archdeacon Sam Rose  
Diocesan Executive Officer  
Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador