



# Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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## COVID-19 Diocesan Guidance April 5, 2023

### Lifting the Restrictions on the Common Cup and Water of Baptism

Dear Diocesan Family,

Blessings to you in this Holy Week.

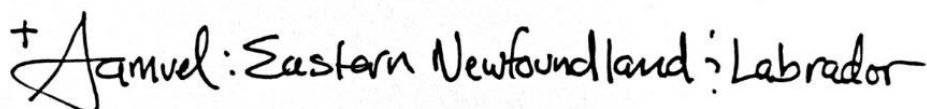
Today, I am pleased to share updated COVID-19 Diocesan Guidance on lifting restrictions on the Common Cup and the Water of Baptism. **These restrictions will end on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023.** I have decided on this specific date to give every parish in the Diocese adequate time to prepare for a return of the shared chalice at the Holy Eucharist and the sharing of the baptismal water among candidates within the liturgy of Holy Baptism.

The reception of both kinds (bread and wine) at the Holy Eucharist for those who wish to receive it does not mean that anyone uncomfortable with receiving the chalice must receive it. **It is entirely left to the person's discretion if they receive from the chalice.** This is a matter for those who wish to access the Holy Eucharist in the form we have kept as a church for centuries.

It has been three years since these liturgical restrictions were implemented as we learned to live with the COVID-19 pandemic as a church and society. Over the past three years, there have been dozens of COVID-19 Diocesan guidance updates, and we learned to pivot when the Department of Health and the Chief Medical Office mandated restrictions. As your Bishop, I am grateful to every clergy, layperson and church leadership who worked together to implement these restrictions and to keep one another safe.

It will take time for people to adjust from the experience of the last three years and the uncertainty which has marked our lives together. This is why this notice is coming out now with the information attached. People who are uncomfortable receiving from the chalice need to be reassured that their choice is respected and that they can return to the chalice when they are ready. I ask that this COVID-19 Diocesan Guidance be shared widely in our parishes and congregations so that everyone can make the decision they feel is best for themselves.

A Happy Easter to you, and the blessings of eternal life be ours, always.



The Right Rev. Samuel Rose (he/him)  
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador



# ANGLICAN EAST NL

## COVID-19 Diocesan Guidance April 5, 2023

### Lifting the Restrictions on the Common Cup and Water of Baptism

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023**, the Diocese will lift all remaining restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, upon this date, Parishes may return to sharing in the common cup during the Eucharistic celebration, and the water of baptism can, once again, be shared among candidates within the liturgy of Baptism.

Although these are the last remaining restrictions to be lifted, COVID-19 is still present and spreading within our communities. Mask use while gathered is strongly encouraged, primarily when close contact with others occurs. Frequent hand sanitation should be practiced, especially when handling common items and/or food or when physical contact occurs between people. Ventilating the spaces we are gathered in, in so far as is practical and comfortable, continues to be advised.

#### **The Common Cup**

Parishes may reintroduce the use of the common cup, as was the practice before the pandemic, of which communicants may, through individual choice, receive in one or both kinds:

- Those administering the Eucharist, be it the bread or common cup, should be masked, and their hands should be sanitized before and after administration.
- It should be clearly communicated to the community that the sufficiency of receiving in one kind and that those uncomfortable with receiving the common cup should never feel obligated to do so.
- ***The practice of Intinction, and all forms thereof, are strictly prohibited.*** This should also be communicated clearly to all those present for the Eucharistic celebration. Those administering the common cup should ensure Intinction does not occur during the administration.
- For presiding clerics who are uncomfortable with consuming the remaining wine and/or the wine and water used in the ablutions, it would be advised that a communicant (or communicants) be identified within the community who are comfortable with consuming from the common cup to assist with the consumption of the remaining sacramental wine and performing the ablutions. It is important to note that disposing of the Consecrated Wine, or the wine and water used in the ablutions, by pouring it down a sacrarium or piscina is not provided for in the rubrics of the Church. Consumption is

the only means to dispose of the remaining consecrated bread and wine. Yet, there are rare and exceptional circumstances where consumption is not possible or advised. In those circumstances, using a sacrarium or piscina would be the only proper alternative to consumption. This would be only in the rarest and most exceptional circumstances where consumption is not an option.

### **The Water of Baptism**

The water of Baptism may be shared among candidates as was the practice before the pandemic:

- During the administration of Baptism, the officiant should sanitize their hands and wear a mask when blessing the water, holding the infant, and performing the act of baptism.
- When baptizing multiple candidates within the same liturgy, the officiant should sanitize their hands between candidates.

Further to the above, it is crucial that we are pastoral and considerate of any communicant, as in the case of sharing the common cup, or new parent, as in the case of sharing the water of baptism, who may remain apprehensive and uncomfortable with these remaining restrictions being lifted. All efforts should be taken to be respectful and responsive to their concerns without ignoring or diminishing them.