



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Venerable Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div.(Hon)
Bishop-Elect of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

ANGLICAN DIOCESAN CENTRE
19 King's Bridge Road
St. John's, NL A1C 3K4
Telephone: (709) 576-6697
Fax: (709) 576-7122
Email: srose@anglicanenl.net

A Message from Bishop-Elect Sam Rose

November 29, 2020

My dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Electoral Synod held on Saturday was a holy moment for our Diocesan Family. Even though we were miles apart physically, there was a great sense of Unity in Christ as we gathered virtually to choose a new Bishop. The candidates felt your prayers and your discerning while we waited at the Cathedral. It was a time of anticipation which was appropriate as we were on the cusp of the Advent Season – the time of waiting and watching and hoping in joyful anticipation for new beginnings.

Indeed, it is a new beginning for our Diocesan Family. Our God is always renewing the Church in order to shape us more into the image of Jesus. For the One who said, "*Behold, I make all things new,*" (Rev. 21:5) still speaks this message to us today. While we remember and celebrate what *was*, God continuously calls us to what *is* today and what *will be* tomorrow. This may cause us fear and trembling in our uncertainty, but what is certain is that we move into this new beginning *together* with God and each other.

You may be wondering about the future of our Diocese, our Parishes and our Churches. As your next Bishop, I am wondering about that too. There are things yet unknown and uncertain. As we are learning to live with COVID and adapting and changing our lives on what seems to be a daily basis, we know that some of the things we were used to will never be the way they were again. Our Diocese is also being changed and we will look different in the near future. We had been planning for this restructuring since the Synod of 2018, but COVID has accelerated our timeline. There are critical decisions that will need to be made in the coming months instead of the coming years. My commitment, as your next Bishop, is to walk with you through these changes in faithfulness and love. We will see each other through this together, "*so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest upon God's eternal changelessness.*"

In order to do this, I have asked our Metropolitan, the Most Rev'd David Edwards permission for the Consecration and Installation of the Bishop to be held sooner than later. He has agreed and asked Bishop John Watton, the next senior Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Province, to be the Ordaining Bishop. The liturgy will be held on **December 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm at our Cathedral**. This will be the Feast Day of the Commemoration of the Rev. Simon Gibbons, the first Anglican Priest from Forteau, Labrador who is remembered by the whole Church as the first Inuit priest in Canada. Simon was orphaned and sent to the Anglican Orphanage in St. John's in 1858. It is at the Orphanage that young Simon excelled in his studies and was nurtured by the Church towards ordination. For a time, he lived with Bishop Field and Mrs. Field at the Bishop's Home where received his formal education. Although he never served as a priest in Labrador or Newfoundland, I believe it very appropriate to hold the Consecration and Installation on the day that commemorates his life and ministry as he was one of our own.

Obviously, there will be restrictions on this event due to Public Health guidelines and there will be a limited number who can attend in person. Further details will be forthcoming but the liturgy will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube and Facebook sites. Much like our recent Electoral Synod, although we cannot gather in person, I ask you to surround the Diocese in prayer at that time.

I want to thank you for the tremendous outpouring of support and encouragement since Saturday. I have literally received hundreds and hundreds of messages which I will respond to in the near future. I do not take your love and prayers for granted. It is, and will be, a source of strength during this Episcopacy. And know that as you pray for me, I will be praying for all of our Diocesan Family and our Beloved Church.

A Blessed Advent Season to you as we wait and watch and hope with joyful anticipation!

**Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
so that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**
Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.

In Christ's love,
Sam

The Venerable Samuel Rose
Bishop-Elect
Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador