



BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA

December 21st, 2020

Dear Friends,

We know that the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage across the globe, with increased infections affecting every continent. While the hope of widespread vaccinations is before us later next year, we must redouble our fight to contain the pandemic, or else deaths will increase, our health care workers and hospitals will be overwhelmed, and our return to normal will be prolonged.

God entered into our humanity in the form of a vulnerable infant who needed loving care, even as he would eventually bring healing and wholeness to all people. We who follow Jesus do so in the world, and our world needs our loving care as we seek healing and wholeness at this time. No sacrifice is too much as we seek to serve the Child of Bethlehem.

With this letter I am instructing our entire diocese, in Ontario and Quebec, to move into the RED stage of our pandemic plan, effective December 26th at 12:01 am, and to remain there for 28 days—or until further notice. Please consult paragraphs 14 to 28 in our diocesan "In This Together V2" pandemic plan as soon as possible and become familiar with RED stage restrictions.

While our AMBER protocols must be strictly observed until December 26th, I am asking the clergy and wardens of every parish to be aware of the urgent need to mitigate the risk of spread—as indicated by calls for an instant lockdown from hospitals and front-line health workers—and to immediately engage in a discussion of these questions:

1. Can we cancel or reduce the number of services planned for December 24th and 25th?
2. Can we further restrict the number of people attending Christmas services?
3. Can we move to RED stage immediately?

While some of you may decide to make changes to your plans based on these questions, others may decide that your current plans are acceptable. Those decisions are yours to make based on your familiarity with your context, consistent with paragraph 5 of our plan. In any event, all parishes must move to RED stage by December 26th, and AMBER protocols must be unwaveringly observed until then.

A subsequent Communiqué will be issued shortly to offer further clarification of the RED stage.

With thanks for your strength and wisdom as we serve one another in the world God loves,

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Shane A.D. Parker
Bishop of Ottawa

SADP/hnp

THE RIGHT REVEREND SHANE A. D. PARKER
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE · WWW.OTTAWA.ANGLICAN.CA · BUREAU DE L'ÉVÊQUE
71 BRONSON AVENUE · OTTAWA, ON · K1R 6G6 · 613-233-7741 · BISHOPSOFFICE@OTTAWA.ANGLICAN.CA
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA · L'ÉGLISE ANGLICANE DU CANADA