

Bishop
The Right Reverend Robert Hardwick

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

January 19, 2020

RE: Suspension of in person worship in the diocese of Qu'Appelle

Grace and Peace be with you.

Since the New Year I have engaged in further conversations with the Anglican bishops in Saskatchewan and with our Evangelical Lutheran communion partners. I've had separate conversations with 26 clergy and lay leaders across the diocese, and met with your diocesan executive committee. The shared opinion among all these conversations leads me to announce that the suspension of all public, in-person, worship will extend to the end of January. Before the end of the month, we fully expect that the provincial government will review its current guidelines. In anticipation of this review, I will meet with the clergy of the diocese on January 29 and the diocesan council on January 30, to take counsel together in order to create a diocesan faith-based response and plan going forward into 2021.

The three Anglican dioceses and ELCIC Synod in Saskatchewan share this suspension decision to the end of January.

Notwithstanding, after seeking further clarification on guidelines for church aided food programs, I have given permission for this much needed outreach ministry to continue. If your church is interested in beginning, re-starting, or partnering with an agency or church in your area, I will forward, on request, the guidelines for such a program.

In addition, and acting with the concurrence of the diocesan executive committee, parishes in the diocese now have permission to host funeral services of church members in their church, if so desired. Such permission is given on the agreement that all current government guidelines will be followed.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding, and thank you for the innovative and compassionate ways you remain faithful and prayerful in these times.

Keep Safe and God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. Hardwick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

The Rt. Revd. Rob Hardwick
Diocese of Qu'Appelle

My prayers for this week

Pandemic

Most merciful God, in the midst of this pandemic we look to you in hope and trust, acknowledging that there is much in life beyond our present understanding. Accept our compassion for the afflicted; bless and protect those who work for their relief; and show us what we can do to share in their task, as servants of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In this week of prayer for Christian Unity:

A prayer for Christian Unity

Lord and heavenly Father, through your Son Jesus Christ you have called us to be one in the family of your Church: give us grace to break down the barriers which keep us apart; that, accepting our differences, we may grow in love for one another, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thinking of the troubled areas of our world and especially tomorrow for the USA:

A prayer for peace

God of all mercy, we pray for the nations of the world especially those areas where there is unrest and violence. Give wisdom of mind and strength of character to those called to positions of leadership; overthrow the purposes and design of those intent on evil or harm; and establish the cause of righteousness in every land that all your people may be led into the way of peace and justice; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.