



## ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

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January 7, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Here is some updated information to add to my letter of January 6<sup>th</sup> about the return to Phase I in the Covid-19 protocol. Bishop Bruce Myers was at a meeting today where some things were clarified. With his permission, I am sending his very clear instructions.

**WORSHIP SERVICES** – In-person worship services in all churches of the diocese are suspended between January 9 and February 8. Congregations are encouraged to provide online services during this time, or to invite worshippers to join a neighbouring online service. Our web site has a list of churches with online worship. <https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/covid19-response>.

**FUNERALS** – The government is making an exception for funeral services, which may still take place in church buildings, but with a maximum of 25 people in the congregation. This number does not include clergy, funeral home workers, or others assisting with the service. Masks should be worn throughout the service and individuals from different households should maintain a distance of two metres from each other. The names and contact details of everyone who attends a funeral must be recorded for the purposes of contact tracing. Food and beverages must not be served after the funeral service.

**PASTORAL VISITING** – In-person pastoral visiting – whether at a hospital, care home, or an individual’s residence – is prohibited during this lockdown period. However, you are encouraged to use other means, such as the internet and telephone, to keep in touch with the members of your community during this new and intensified period of physical isolation.

**HALL RENTALS** – The rental of parish halls and other such spaces is prohibited during this lockdown period, unless the organization renting the space falls under one of the categories for which the provincial government has made an exception, such as community organizations.

Grace and peace,

*+ Mary*

“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength...” Isaiah 40:31