



# *Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador*

## *The Anglican Church of Canada*

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Dear Friends,

I write at this time to update you on our current situation in our parish and Diocese. On Monday afternoon Bishop Geoff wrote a second pastoral letter to the Diocese informing us that all church services and public gatherings in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador are to cease effective immediately until further notice. All previously scheduled liturgies and celebrations are to be rescheduled to a later date after our diocesan life resumes its normal pace.

Within our parish of St. John the Evangelist, Topsail we will hereby be cancelling all public worship services, meetings, studies and gatherings. Going forward I will be offering worship services, Godly Play and prayer resources through our Facebook page **SJTE Topsail**, if you are not a Facebook user you can still see the live worship services and other resources through our website [www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com](http://www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com) which streams our Facebook page. I know that this is not ideal for some of our people but it is the only option that we have right now to continue to gather together as a family of God. Keep checking our Facebook page and our email list in the coming days for more details. I hope to also be able to offer a weekly bible study online once I figure out the details and will update you when that happens. As of now both Madonna and I are working from home as we have remote access and we will continue to do so until otherwise directed by our Diocesan Bishop.

As of yesterday, we have made every possible cut to ensure that our costs remain at the lowest possible rates and though services and the normal day to day parish activities will cease in the sense of face to face operations our financial obligations still remain in effect. It costs our parish roughly \$18,000.00 a month to operate and our current savings will only enable us to meet these obligations for a short period of time. We give thanks and appreciate your financial support to our parish, it's staff and ministries. Going forward, we have a locked drop box outside of the parish office for you to deliver your weekly offerings. We also are encouraging PAD (pre-authorized givings) - if you have not already signed on! Once this is done, you don't have to worry about getting out to the office and your financial contributions are secured, this is easily done by filling out the attached form with this letter and returning it to the drop box or to the parish email address. We also accept e-transfers and you can do this by emailing contributions to [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net)

I will still be available for pastoral emergencies and funerals as the need arises and I am available for you to talk to via phone, text and email. We can even set up FaceTime! Our vestry and leadership teams will still meet via online meetings and we are currently working on a phone list for our seniors who do not have access to email and social media so that we can keep in touch with them going forward.

This is a new way of being the church for all of us and we are taking things one day at a time. As more updates become available, I will be sending out more emails and updating our social media pages. It is important for you, if at all possible, to be practicing social distancing and taking care of your health. We will come through this together as a parish family. Though we have no idea when we will return to our normal operations we will continue to worship and fellowship together in new ways as best we can, and I am already working on a celebration when it is safe for us to all be together again! That day will come, we just do not know when right now. Check on one another, keep in touch via phone calls, emails and social media as you're able to and please keep all those who are affected by this virus at this time in your prayers. Remember our frontline workers who are diligently keeping us all safe and treating this first hand.

Let us pray;

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people;  
In the multitude of your mercies look with compassion  
Upon us and all who turn to you for help;  
For you are gracious, O lover of souls,  
And to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever.  
Amen

Yours in Christ,  
Reverend Jolene +

*Rector*

