

Bishop  
**The Right Reverend Robert Hardwick**

E-mail: [bishop.rob@sasktel.net](mailto:bishop.rob@sasktel.net)  
Website: <http://quappelle.anglican.ca>



**ST. CUTHBERT'S HOUSE**  
1501 College Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 1B8 CANADA

Telephone: (306) 522-3101  
Fax: (306) 352-6808

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

November 23, 2020

My friends in Christ,

We in Saskatchewan have seen a serious increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in recent weeks. The provincial government, noting that we are past the containment phase of this pandemic, recognise that this disease is everywhere, as is the risk of infection and transmission. COVID-19 does not discriminate. There are now outbreaks across our diocese, in places both large and small. Over the last weekend, there were 828 new Saskatchewan cases identified between Friday and Sunday. Many churches in our diocese have already reached out to me to let me know that have already made the difficult decision to temporarily close their doors. I have consulted with the leaders of the diocese and with Bishop Rob. In the spirit of our commitment to the healing and well being of all, the time has come for the rest of us to do the same.

As Commissary to the Bishop for the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, I am temporarily suspending public worship for our entire diocese, effective immediately. This suspension will be for at least three weeks, and will be revisited after Sunday, December 13 to see how we will proceed.

This applies to all Sunday or midweek public services, and in-person small group ministries.

This applies to Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.

This applies to building rentals by outside groups.

In similar fashion to our previous lockdown, worship services will be conducted online, using technologies including but not limited to YouTube, Zoom, or Facebook Live.

Worship services will once again be Services of the Word. Services will include a celebrant and if spaces allow for safe and appropriate distancing, a single musician. No wind instruments will be allowed. In the instance of a celebrant and musician gathering in a space, masks will be worn at all times.

I thank you for the excellent efforts that have been made to adjust and readjust as we have found ways to meet together. I also thank you in advance for your understanding and compliance as we continue to find different ways to be faithful in these times.

As we step into Advent, now we wait.

Be kind and be safe, beloved ones.

Know that each one of us is held in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, this day and always.

*Peace +*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Sinclair'.

The Very Reverend Mike Sinclair  
Commissary to the Bishop