

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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## DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

June 26, 2020

To All Pastors  
To All Parish Administrators  
To All Pastoral Leaders  
To All the Faithful

Dear Friends,

Yesterday the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador entered Alert Level 2 of our Provincial COVID-19 Alert Level System. At Alert Level 2 Churches may resume operations with restrictions.

At a meeting of the Priests of the Diocese on June 18, 2020, the decision was made that we would not reopen our Churches until the weekend of July 11/12, 2020 at the earliest with some Churches remaining closed still longer. We made this decision because the restrictions that we need to put in place to protect our parishioners from potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus requires a great amount of planning at the local level to prepare our Churches for the necessary restrictions, a substantial number of volunteers to carry out the plans we make and time to communicate our plans with our people.

I have prepared a set of Guidelines which have been reviewed by a small committee of priests and which will be reviewed by all the priests during a Conference Call next week. The priests will then be asked to work with parish leadership and volunteers to communicate the Guidelines to all parishioners and to put the Guidelines into practice before a Church is reopened.

It has been more than three months since we closed our Churches and it has been a difficult time. I know we all want things – including our Parish Life – to return to normal. We miss gathering together to hear the Word of God and to share in the Eucharist. But we

need to reopen our Churches safely and this will take a little more time. I am grateful for your patience and invite you to respond generously if you are asked to volunteer in the reopening effort.

May God Bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Anthony Daniels", with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels  
Bishop of Grand Falls