

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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## DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

October 12, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At a recent meeting of the Council of Pastoral Leaders we discussed our current situation in this post-pandemic time.

First, let me take this opportunity to thank our Priests and Pastoral Leaders for their ability to adapt so well to the onset of the pandemic and the roller-coaster like developments that required ongoing changes to our Liturgical practices and Parish meetings. I also want to express my gratitude to the people of our parishes for your faithfulness, patience, and ongoing support for the life and mission of our parishes.

In my last communication, I said that wearing masks was optional but strongly recommended. The Council of Pastoral Leaders felt that the time had come to amend that directive to say that wearing masks is optional. We will always respect a person's choice to wear a mask at any time in our churches and meeting spaces, but that choice should be made by each person and not based on a recommendation from me.

Consequently, we can now return to pre-pandemic liturgical practices with one exception: we will not yet distribute Communion from the Chalice.

The Council of Pastoral Leaders recognizes that there remains a hesitation, for some, to return to regular attendance at Mass. We understand and respect that. But at the same time, we would not be good Pastors and Pastoral Leaders if we did not take this opportunity to encourage everyone to return to your spiritual home and celebrate with one another around the Eucharistic Table.

Please understand that the Dispensation from Attendance at Mass during the pandemic was given for the sake of safety and not given for the sake of convenience. For those who remain concerned about their safety, the dispensation remains. To everyone else, let us demonstrate that our faith commitment has triumphed – thanks be to God!

In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Anthony Daniels', is written over a horizontal line.

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels  
Bishop of Grand Falls