



Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

February 15th, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus, our lord. Please be assured of my prayers and my support as our Province returns to Alert Level 5. During this time, let us not forget the success we have had over the last eleven months and the sacrifices that have been made by so many. We are truly blessed to live in a Province that looks after one's neighbour and bands together to overcome all odds.

Returning to Alert Level 5 is definitely a step back, but not necessarily a return to our first lockdown. Having learned from the past, there is a greater confidence in what is being asked of us; having weathered this pandemic for almost a year, there are signs of relief on the horizon, proven vaccines and a gradual roll-out. Charities and programs have adapted their programs in reaching out to the poor, the disenfranchised and those needing essential services. We've also become much better in reaching out to loved ones and the technologies that connect us.

This does not totally dampen the disappointment that is felt by many. No one likes to have their movements and actions curtailed. This is true, especially, when it comes to such things as in-person Mass attendance and the celebration of funerals, weddings and baptisms. Aside from burials and scheduled weddings, with no more than five people in attendance, including the priest, we have returned to virtual celebrations for the time being. Please check with your own parish or the diocesan website (www.rcchurch.com) to see what is being offered as ongoing ministry.

During this time, do not hesitate to reach out, either for help or to support others in their need. It is only by sticking together and turning to Christ in our need that, like true Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, we will ride out this storm as we have done in days past.

Be assured of my prayers and blessing as we enter the Season of Lent together,

Fraternally in Christ,

Bishop Bart van Roijen

Bishop of Corner Brook and Labrador

