

Anglican Parish of St. Peter Upper Gullies
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Web Page:

Dear Parishioner:

We have all heard of and/ or have been affected by the worldwide pandemic concerning COVID-19. This world pandemic has **shut down our Church activities and nearly all of our Province** in the attempt to stop its transmission amongst us. I am writing to outline our situation, our challenges and some of the possible opportunities that are available to us to help serve people in our midst. No one knows how long we will be in this situation and new information is coming forward everyday. I suggest that it will be months before we may get back to any normal way of operating. It could be that there will be new ways for us to function in the long term.

The Diocese has directed us to follow Government guidelines and **has directed that we suspend worship, meetings and other activities for the immediate future.** I am exploring ways in which we may be able to set up worship, Lenten Devotions and other gatherings by way of Facebook and other means. We may communicate such opportunities by email and other means as these methods become available. There are special instructions given concerning pastoral visiting and funerals.

There are a number of things we can do as a Parish family to do our part as we make our way through this time. Let us remember that ***the Church is People and not just our buildings.***

First, we should be people of prayer. We need to pray for all those affected by COVID-19. There have only been a few cases affecting people in our Province. However, we should not be surprised if that number rises. The object of all the school and business closures is to minimize the possible transmission to our most vulnerable people; the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. The term that is being used that we need to “flatten the curve” of transmission. **We are all asked to do our part.** Hand washing and social distancing are just part of the instructions. Staying home and watching out for symptoms are things that we should all take seriously. An official of Diocese told me this morning on how regrettable it would be if someone was made ill directly or indirectly by a Church sponsored event.

Pray for everyone affected: Our schools, businesses, workplaces, organizations, those who rely of gatherings in anyway to support themselves here and around the world. We pray for Governments at every level that policies and procedures are put in place to help ensure public safety.

We pray that we and the public will act responsively. That we do not panic and disregard each other in our use of the things we need. That we will only buy what we need for two weeks at a time.

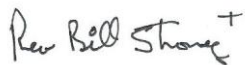
Second, we need to look out for each other. How are you doing? How are your neighbours? Do you have what you need? Do you need help in getting something? Can we help? Do you know of someone? Please let us know. We are available to offer help in any practical way. Please do hesitate to call. Call me directly if you are feeling anxious and simply want to talk, I am here to listen. My number is 325-1278.

Third Please support your Parish Financially. The world may have grinded to a halt, but we have commitments that are ongoing. Salaries need to be paid along with other expenses that will be incurred whether we have services or not. Please consider making gifts to our Parish by direct deposit or by email. We would be pleased to pick up your envelope directly at your convenience. Please help us especially if you have not been a regular contributor. It is vital to our future! Governments and or Diocese are making plans to help us during this time, but we do not exactly know to what extent that will help our Parish.

Fourth, Help us with our records. In the coming days, I hope that we will lay out plans to make telephone contact with everyone who has had some contact with us. Could you help us with this project? We would like to make sure that our information is up to date and to find out ways to improve our connections with people. There is an opportunity to discover new ministries and possibilities. Please help!

Together we can make a difference for all concerned. Let us not lose hope, God is with us Always.

In His Service

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev Bill Strong" with a small cross symbol at the end.

Rev. Bill Strong

Rector.