



## DIOCESE OF CALEDONIA

### Anglican Synod Office

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of Caledonia:

The current Corona Virus is an international concern and the World Health Organization has taken steps to assist countries to address it. Currently there are 3 known cases in Canada. Every year in Canada, according to Statistics Canada, over 3,500 Canadians die from Influenza and over 12,000 are hospitalized for it. I do not wish to add to anyone's anxiety nor downplay the seriousness of the Corona Virus but I wish to take a moment to remind us all of the best practices for reducing the transmission of infectious diseases.

- Wash hands frequently. The use of hand sanitizer at worship is highly recommended for all, especially communion ministrants.
- Follow correct chalice cleaning techniques between communicants and use fresh purificators for each service.
- The practice of intinction is discouraged. We know that the Corona Virus, like SARS, was passed through small water particulates. Holding onto the communion wafer, breathing on it, and dunking increases the possibility of contamination and cross-contamination.
- The reception of communion in one form, either bread or wine, is a long held valid practice in the church. For those fearing infection from receiving the chalice, know that the sacrament is complete in the one form.
- When feeling ill, the best practice is to stay home and work on recovery. It is important not to interact with those who may have compromised immune systems, like young children, the elderly, and others.
- At present, there is no need to put limitations on passing of the Peace. As always, be respectful of personal space.

Please take time to review our congregation's practices around the distribution of the blessed Sacrament and have hand sanitizer available at all worship services. Please pray for the medical staff addressing this outbreak, those infected, and their families.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend David TJ Lehmann  
Bishop of Caledonia