



# DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

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From the Archbishop

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear people of God in Algoma,

Grace and peace to you and those you love. You remain in my prayers as we continue our spiritual journey through the season of Epiphany, and as we contend with the COVID-19 pandemic here and around the globe. The gravest concern right now is the arrival of the virus's mutations with their increased transmissibility. It continues to be imperative we do everything possible to follow the safety protocols that are in place.

It is encouraging to see an increase in the delivery of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, and we hope the Astra Zeneca vaccine will be approved this week. However, with only 2% of the population vaccinated thus far, we still have a long way to go.

In light of this reality and the Province's latest guidelines issued February 8th, and after various consultations, including with our epidemiological advisor, I have decided the Diocese of Algoma will remain in the RED STAGE until Palm/Passion Sunday (March 28th) at the earliest. I would like us to move forward together as a diocese, ensuring the most responsible precautions are taken in response to the pandemic, and sending a clear message that we 'are all in this together'. It is my hope that, if there is great caution over the upcoming Family Day weekend and throughout the March Break, we will be able to enter Holy Week in the Amber phase and enjoy in person worship once again.

Being in the RED STAGE means that we will continue our online worship with all participants wearing masks throughout the broadcast or livestream services. The one change is that you have permission to increase the number of people in your recordings to ten instead of five.

We continue to receive questions regarding small group meetings and outreach initiatives, and we are happy to answer those questions as they arise. Many of you are in the middle of preparing for Annual Vestry Meetings. May they go well for you. I am encouraged to hear about the number of people signed up to attend them via Zoom.

I will send a pastoral letter at the beginning of Lent. Until then may God's hand of blessing continue to rest upon you.

In Christ's peace and hope,

The Most Rev. Anne Germond  
Archbishop of Algoma