

SYNOD OFFICE SNIPPETS

May 21, 2021

For your diocesan communication needs, please contact

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In January, 2020, none of us knew anything about Zoom. Now we can't minister without it.

- Clergy Meetings: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.
- Staff/Bishop's Advisory Council: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
- Athabasca Deanery Clericus: May 20, 7:00 p.m.
- Management Committee: May 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Peace Deanery Chapter: May 26, 7:00 p.m.
- Diocesan Executive Council: June 24, 7:00 p.m.

+ a number of Zoom worship services available on Sunday mornings + Morning and Evening Prayer available Mondays – Fridays.

The tolling (from "telling") of church bells is a series of single rings, interspersed with silences, to tell the parish of a death. The diocese would like to encourage those churches with bells (acoustic or electric) to toll their bells on Fridays at 12 noon to commemorate those who have died from COVID 19, those who mourn and those who have been negatively affected by the pandemic. If you participate, you may choose to toll your bell for 1 minute continuously or five times for each the reported COVID-related deaths from the previous week. (That statistic is reported here, <https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm#severe-outcomes>.)

However, to prevent this from merely being annoying to your parishioners and neighbours, please carry out a publicity campaign to both groups. Make use of doorknob hangers, local radio stations, Facebook/Twitter accounts, posters, parish emails, newsletters and the like to tell people who is tolling the bell, why, when, and how people may share in this time of commemoration.



If you or your parish is struggling because of the pandemic, restrictions, anxieties or any other cause, do not suffer in silence. Contact your Regional Dean immediately. Peace Deanery: the Rev. Deacon Danielle McKenzie. Athabasca Deanery: the Rev. Dr. Blessing Shambare.

If you are a registered charity, you have a Business Number (##### ##### RR 000#). If you've ever issued receipts for income tax purposes, you have a B/N. If you are a registered charity with a B/N who has ever issued income tax receipts, you must complete a T3010 and related forms for the **CANADA REVENUE AGENCY**. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of your charitable status and a host of other awful consequences. To avoid causing yourselves or the archdeacon heart palpitations, please work on completing these forms soon. Since they all use data you gathered for your annual general meetings and the Annual Parochial Returns, it should be relatively easy to complete them. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2021.

ACPO IS COMING!

With the help of the Rev. Dr. Pilar Gateman of the Diocese of Calgary, we will be hosting a ministry discernment weekend called the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination. At the end of June, three assessors from outside the diocese will engage two postulants in intense discussions about the call of God on their lives. Together they will examine the characters and the gifts for ministry which the postulants show. This virtual event is replacing the traditional in-person event, which has been held in Calgary for the last number of years and which is sponsored by the Province of Rupert's Land.

Pray for vocations to ministry and for those who are experiencing a call to ordained ministry.

Ministry Development

If you've ever wondered what the heck you should be doing as a parish treasurer, Warden or Vestry member, support is only an email away. Diocesan Treasurer Vicki Townson and Executive Archdeacon Terry Leer are preparing events to assist parishioners in understanding their roles as ministers of Christ within the institution of the Church. These events will highlight

- what to do, when;
- how to communicate what information;
- how not to take on other people's jobs;
- what is your role and task description.

If you're interested, contact the archdeacon today (amdath@telus.net).

Please pray for clergy recruiting efforts and the development of ministry opportunities for the following parishes:

- St. Luke's, Beaverlodge,
- St. Anne's, Valleyview,
- St. Thomas', Fort McMurray,
- All Saints', Fort McMurray.

Please pray for all our diocese, and especially for

- St. Paul's, Fort Chipewyan,
- St. Andrew's, Lac La Biche, and
- all those parishes and congregants suffering from the impacts of the pandemic and the economic downturn.