



SYNOD OFFICE SNIPPETS

June 11, 2021



For your diocesan communication needs, please contact

Kelinda MacRoberts

780-624-2767

dioath@telusplanet.net.

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 (dani2girl@hotmail.com; 780-618-1451). Athabasca Deanery: the Rev. Dr. Blessing Shambare (shambarebf@gmail.com; 780-849-0690).

Starting June 10, the Diocese of Athabasca is sponsoring an Employee and Family Assistance Plan for employees, non-stipendiary clergy and lay incumbents. The plan is administered by the Walmsley Group from British Columbia. The plan provides for short-term counselling and support to subscribers and their families (mental health, substance abuse issues, physical well-being). The services provided are confidential and members of the plan contact the Walmsley Group directly to arrange for counselling.

§§§

The Diocesan Executive Council meets on June 24, at 7:00 p.m., via the Zoom platform.

While the DEC focusses on diocesan issues, now's the time to talk to your representatives to ensure that our diocesan decisions include reflections from your experiences.

In an attempt to address the issues made more tangible by the pandemic, the DEC will meet on Zoom on June 26, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The discussion will focus on the "WHY" of our our diocese: why make disciples, why do evangelism, why fight so hard to keep our aging buildings and infrastructure going. Figuring out our WHY will guide our WHAT and HOW. But

there's something of a difficulty: the DEC will have to work hard to allow the WHY to transform their ministry. All too often, we end such events with, "Well, that was a good conference." And we all know what follows from that: very little.

So, please pray for your DEC and for our diocese, especially as we confront dwindling incomes and the possibility of re-opening our parishes.

The Rt. Rev. David Greenwood has announced the appointment of the Rev. Leon Cadsap as incumbent of the Parish of All Saints', Fort McMurray. Please pray for All Saints', for St. Mark's, High Prairie, and for all the changes to come in our diocese.

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.

In a number of cases, the Diocese (here read Terry and Kelinda) is required to complete the T3010 forms on behalf of parishes. These are exceptions to the rule and arise for a number of reasons. But the need does make clear the stresses which our parishes are facing. Do not wait to ask for assistance and support. We know from our own diocesan experience, that waiting in the hope that the problems will go away or that some resolution will miraculously present itself will only result in more troubles and even in disaster. So, don't wait. If you're having problems with

- completing the T3010, T1235 or T1236,
- communicating with parishioners about the issues of income and cash flow,
- figuring out what information to share with the diocese,
- how to pay for whatever maintenance is required, or
- anything else dealing with the functioning of the Church,

contact the Venerable Canon Terry Leer, Executive Archdeacon, amdath@telus.net or 780-618-9593. If, however, your having problems with

- a parishioner who tells you to never talk about money in the Church,
- a treasurer who is protecting their empire of finances,
- a strong-willed group of people who think that all our solutions lie in a return to the past, or
- with anyone else who is resisting dealing with problems in the present,

do not contact the archdeacon (*whew*). Rather, contact your incumbent, your regional dean or the bishop, David Greenwood (bpath@telusplanet.net; 780-219-8499).

A very strong tradition inside the Church and especially in our Sunday Schools has uncovered God's first name:

*Andy walks with me,
Andy talks with me,
Andy tells me, I am his own.*