



CLERICAL PASTORAL LETTER AND APPEAL

November 03, 2020

My Dear Friends,

As we are all too aware, our world as we know it has changed dramatically since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis this year. Everything, it seems, has been turned upside down from our daily routines, rituals, travel, work, family, finances, and certainly our Church life as we know it. Today, I wish to update you on this from our Parish family here at All Saints, and our wider Diocesan family.

This will be a difficult read for people. However, equally, and just as important, I want to gently remind you that we are an Easter people, a people of ETERNAL HOPE in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is a way forward if we all come together unified as one. It is most important to be as one in our Parish and in support of the Diocese. For if we do, we shall indeed overcome!

Our Church and hall have been closed for well over six months during the COVID crisis, with the result that our rental and fundraising income, representing a substantial part of our budget revenue, has been eliminated. You, our excellent Parishioners, have continued to support your Church through your envelope offerings during this most difficult period, and for that we are all truly thankful. To the end of September, our revenue is less than budget by \$113,234 – including shortfalls in envelope giving (\$59,897), hall rentals (\$32,398) and fundraising (\$20,939).

On a very positive note, we have been able to offset this to a great degree through the receipt of the parish staff wage subsidy paid by the federal government (\$67,586), through cost savings (\$12,678), and by drawing on our savings (\$10,524). Deficits for the remainder of the year are estimated at \$30,000, since major fundraising initiatives and rentals will not take place, along with expected lower than budget giving.

As a result of our financial situation, some difficult decisions had to be made. Particularly, the monthly synod assessment of \$6,073 could no longer be paid after May, leaving a current amount payable of



\$30,368. This in turn has contributed to the financial difficulties of the Diocese, who receive 94% of its revenue from Church assessments. It has always counted on the Parish of All Saints to be a key financial contributor, even more so at present when only half (15) of its 30 parishes are paying. It is critical we restart. Your vestry is working on your behalf to send what we can each month now until the end of December, with the goal of starting full synod assessment by January 2021.

All of this said, I truly believe, deep in my soul, that if there ever is a parish that can come together as "one, strong and unified", it is this Parish, as there is a way forward, together, as one. We have our challenge and we must and will rise to it. Therefore, today I am launching the COVID Appeal Fund for the Parish of All Saints. We hope to raise \$50,000 by the end of the year. This appeal is above and beyond your regular Sunday offerings.

Although this may seem insurmountable, if everyone who has been ministered to by our Parish and the wider community contributes, we shall indeed be successful. Our Parish has always taken on projects and initiatives, and has always risen to the occasion. To contribute, we kindly ask that you identify your contribution as "COVID Appeal" and provide your envelope number. If you have any questions and or clarifications, please feel free to contact us.

In closing, during the six months of COVID, when virtually everything was closed, you were there to support us by watching our pre-recorded Sunday services, and giving your offerings to the work of God's Kingdom. Today, by that support along, with that of the wider community, coupled with God's grace moving forward, we shall indeed overcome.

Sincerely,

Wayne+

The Rev Wayne Parsons - Rector, All Saints Parish CBS

Sam+

The Rev Sam Butler - Associate Priest, All Saints Parish CBS