



From the Bishop
The Most Reverend Philip Richardson
Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

The *Anglican* Church
in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa, ki Niu Tirenī,
ki Ngā Moutere o te Moana Nui a Kiwa

28 August 2020

Dear colleagues,

I have received some correspondence on our diocesan Level 2 Guidance on food preparation and hospitality and the Bishop's Staff have discussed our current guidance at length. We are acutely aware that in the resurgence in Auckland, five churches were significant agents of the spread of this second wave of the virus. We are committed to doing our utmost to ensure we are not contributors to the spread and we have a particular concern for the many who are immunocompromised in our church communities.

Notwithstanding that, if you are able to meet the standards for the serving of food for hospitality laid down in the government guidelines ([see here](#)), then with the agreement of your archdeacon you may offer hospitality. Some of the basics that need to be considered include:

1. Food should not come from multiple sources (i.e. no bringing of food to be shared)
2. Food should be served onto a plate and delivered to the recipient who is seated at a table (i.e. no self-serving of food from shared platters)
3. Coffee and tea should be served and delivered
4. Those serving food should be limited in number and wear masks and gloves.
5. Cleaning of hard surfaces should be to the standards suggested in government guidelines

You can find an overview of food safety guidelines [here](#).

Yours in Christ,

✠✠Philip Richardson
Bishop of Waikato and Taranaki