Updated advice as at 4.30 pm on Monday 11 May 2020

- **Worship services are limited to 10 people**: Therefore Churches in the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki are to remain closed until further notice.

- **Detailed Level Two guidelines** will be circulated tomorrow evening (Tuesday 12 May 2020) but all advice regarding services *may be planned for but not implemented* until the Bishop indicates that Churches may reopen.

- **Local Communities** will be responsible for making their own assessment of their capacity to meet Level 2 requirements. These requirements must be strictly adhered to. These include; strict social distancing, contact tracing and all health and safety requirements for a workplace such as sanitising all surfaces, hand sanitiser and, no hand contact etc.

- **Protect the most vulnerable** – A significant proportion of our ministers are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. This includes kaumātua (elders) and those with underlying health conditions. The risk of Māori and Pacific Island infections rates are also significantly higher (see [COVID-19 Research by Te Punaha Matatini](https://www.wtanglican.nz/page/health-and-safety/)). As Anglican ministers we serve in some of the most deprived communities in Aotearoa-NZ. While we are many parts we must act as one body to keep the most vulnerable in our communities, and indeed all of us, safe.

- **Apply the principle ‘Common Good’** which teaches us to seek what’s best for everyone, beginning with the last, the least, the lost, and the most forgotten. Ask: how can we include those who could be excluded from our regathering because they are vulnerable?

- **Start simply - Take small steps**: don’t try to begin everything consider simply gathering for prayer, community and support. Consider not making your first service Eucharist with the additional logistics required.

- **Prepare your site carefully for re-entry**: including offices and other spaces. Clergy and lay employees may return to offices which have been cleaned to required standards and can be maintained at safe levels for a working environment. The Diocese has provided a template to support Parishes to re-open their premises [https://www.wtanglican.nz/page/health-and-safety/](https://www.wtanglican.nz/page/health-and-safety/)

- **Pastoral Visiting**: Limited and controlled pastoral visiting permitted. We must continue to offer pastoral care but be cautious when offering in-person ministry. Limit time spent, maintain physical distance, and use best hygiene practices.

- **Wash hands, do not have physical contact, cough and sneeze into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces, stay home and seek advice if unwell.**

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*Family of God, Followers of Christ*

*Marked by Gratitude, Growing Disciples, Transforming Communities*