



c/o 68 Renfrew Street
Pembroke, ON. K8A 5R6
Telephone: 613-732-4658

Memorandum: Anglican Funeral Guidelines – COVID-19

March 26, 2020

To Our Valued Partners in the Funeral Services Sector,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ during this Lenten season.

Given the many statements circulating from government and church authorities relating to COVID-19, we thought it best to write to you directly, to outline the guidelines for end-of-life care and funerals which we will be observing in our parish until such time as regular funeral practices can resume. As ordained clergy, we recognize and honour the importance of gathering with loved ones at times of grief and sorrow to offer prayers and reassurance, ever mindful of the sure and certain hope that is promised to us in the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

To this end, the Anglican churches and chapels of the Parish of the Valley will be observing the following funeral guidelines in the coming weeks to promote the health and wellbeing of all. **These guidelines will remain in place until further notice and are subject to amendment.**

1. For those nearing death, our clergy continue to be available to offer anointing and prayers (commonly called "Last Rites.") Please direct loved ones to telephone our clergy-team using the contact numbers listed below.
2. For those who have died, we will be endeavouring to meet with loved ones and funeral service providers via telephone and Zoom to make funeral arrangements. If at all possible, in-person funeral planning meetings will be avoided. Per our usual practices please contact us via telephone to begin the funeral planning process.
3. **In general, we will be strongly encouraging all families to delay funerals, funeral receptions and celebrations of life until such time as the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.** If a delay is impractical, funerals will be carried out with the following parameters in place:
 - i. Our clergy will not be available to attend in-person at funeral homes or at funeral home chapels. Our clergy will meet funeral parties at our churches and chapels only.
 - ii. **Per the directions of the Anglican Bishop of Ottawa and the Renfrew County District Health Unit, attendance at visitations, viewings and funeral liturgies for all Anglican adherents shall be for immediate family members only. Per Renfrew**

County guidelines published March 18th, attendance at funerals shall not exceed 10 individuals, including the officiating cleric and funeral staff. We are unable to officiate at a funeral if it has been preceded by a visitation or viewing at which more than 10 individuals have attended. We respectfully ask all funeral service providers to keep staffing levels to an absolute minimum when in attendance at our facilities.

- iii. Funeral liturgies will be Services of the Word and will not include Holy Communion. Attendees will be encouraged to “spread out” in the pews.
- iv. The inclusion of music will be subject to the availability of a musician.
- v. No receptions or visitations for the general public will be held in our facilities until further notice. Only private funeral liturgies for immediate family only shall be conducted in our facilities at this time.

We recognize that these are highly unusual times, and we are grateful for your assistance in caring for those who are grieving as we all struggle with new realities created by COVID-19. Should a deceased’s next of kin choose to proceed with a private funeral for immediate family only at one of our churches or chapels given the parameters listed above, please assure them that our parish will be honoured to host larger gatherings to celebrate the lives of their departed loved ones once the pandemic has passed.

It continues to be our privilege to serve with you in caring for the people of our communities. Please be assured of our continuing prayers for you and your staff at this time. We remain,

Yours faithfully in Christ,



The Rt. Rev. Michael Bird
Incumbent
613-401-8976



The Rev. Canon Susan Clifford
Associate Incumbent
613-628-2029



The Rev. Matthew Brown
Associate Incumbent
613-687-9123



The Rev. Gillian Hoyer
Associate Incumbent
613-687-9123

The Churches and Chapels of the Parish of the Valley

Holy Trinity Pembroke, All Saints Petawawa, St. George’s South Alice,
St. John the Evangelist Eganville, Church of the Ascension Killaloe, St. John’s Tramore,
St. Stephen’s Micksburg, St. Thomas’ Rankin, St. Patrick’s Lower Stafford, St. Paul’s Cobden,
St. Augustine’s Beachburg, Church of the Epiphany Barry’s Bay, St. Anthony’s Whitney,
Holy Trinity Chapel Madawaska,* St. Clement’s Chapel Clontarf.*

*Funeral liturgies for our parish’s two chapels may be organized at a funeral home chapel, with the prior consent of the Incumbent.