



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

The Venerable Robert Camara  
Executive Archdeacon & Vicar General

May 10, 2022

Dear colleagues,

Some of you may have checked the government webpage to verify restrictions for gathering and worship in churches and found that the government no longer has any specific restrictions. In fact the government website encourages us to learn to live with the virus, using the lessons we have learned over the last two years to limit the spread of Covid-19.

This Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> the Government of Quebec will lift the mask mandate in Quebec.

Effective Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> the Diocese of Montreal will also move from Phase 3 to Phase 4, which removes restrictions on worship and use of our buildings.

Having said that, we also encourage you to remember the many lessons learned over the last 2 years and to continue to use caution and some of the practices that we have espoused to limit the spread of the virus. If it is possible, exercise the use of distance and encourage parishioners to use the space available to them to keep some distance from each other. Continue to provide opportunities for people to sanitize their hands. Encourage the use of masks as much as possible in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. Stay home and join online, if individuals are experiencing any symptoms. Let's not throw away the baby with the bath water and let us continue to provide spaces that are welcoming and safe.

This does mean that we can now reintroduce the common cup. No one should feel pressured to receive in both kinds. Anyone concerned about receiving in both kinds can be encouraged to receive bread only, understanding that receiving in one kind is full communion (this option should be stated during the liturgy or in the bulletin). As always, intinction (dipping bread in wine) is strictly prohibited.

Parishes will feel comfortable moving from Phase 3 to Phase 4 at different speeds. Some Parishes have been waiting for this day, while some may be more uneasy. You will need to decide, depending on your context, what restrictions, if any, you will ask of your communities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or your territorial archdeacon.

Blessings,