



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson
Bishop of Montreal
bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca

March 10, 2021

Dear Clergy and Wardens,

Yesterday at Diocesan Council, an update on Diocesan finances and the current range of support to parishes was discussed. Diocesan Council voted and approved a motion to extend the forgiveness program of Diocesan assessments until May 31, 2021. It was noted that this will help parishes in their current financial challenges because of the pandemic restrictions that have limited their range of revenue opportunities. The anticipated deficit of the Diocesan budget for 2021 is now \$910,000.

The Government of Canada announced last week that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will be available until June 6, 2021. As a result, the Diocese will apply on behalf of all staff on payroll. Please remember that the parish is still responsible to pay for the portion of payroll salaries that is not covered by the subsidy. While the actual amount of the subsidy is unknown until we are able to assess the amount of lost revenue compared to the same period in 2019, it is expected that it may be about 50%.

Parishes should expect and plan to begin to contribute 100% of payroll wages and their share of Diocesan assessments as of June 2021. Diocesan Assessments will begin to be billed as of June 2021.

If your parish needs assistance with stewardship, planning for the future, and congregational development, I remind you that the Rev. Canon Neil Mancor is available to work with parishes to assess and develop strategies to help in these areas.

I look forward to joining with many of our clergy at the annual Clergy Lenten retreat this Sunday evening at 7pm to Tuesday noon with our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls who will speak to us about *Radical Resilience and Hope*. This has always been an important time for clergy to rest, pray and reflect as we prepare for the great celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Please remember to adjust your clocks forward one hour this weekend as Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00am this Sunday, March 14th.

Every blessing,