

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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## DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

March 25, 2020

### **Re: Closing our Churches to the Public during the time of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As the situation in our Diocese, our country and throughout the world continues to evolve regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, further precautions against spreading the virus have become necessary. For this reason, out of pastoral concern for the health and well-being of all our people, I am hereby directing that all churches in the Diocese of Grand Falls be closed to the public until further notice.

This closure means that while we had hoped to be able to make Blessed Palms available to our parishioners, open our churches for private prayer after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, provide an opportunity for our parishioners to privately pray before the Cross on Good Friday and to be able to make Easter Holy Water available, these plans must now be canceled.

Our planned March 27<sup>th</sup> Day of Reconciliation is cancelled. Priests should, of course, hear the confessions of those who make this request.

I look forward to the time when the threat posed by this virus has passed and we can all once again gather as a people of faith in our churches to celebrate the mysteries of our faith. Until then, from the privacy of our homes, let us pray for one another.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Anthony Daniels', with a cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels  
Bishop of Grand Falls