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of the Diocese of Toronto
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Follow-up to the Pastoral Statement on COVID-19 from the Bishop's Office.

To the Clergy of the Diocese -
Dear Friends:

Some clergy have contacted us with good questions regarding other ministry protocols during this time of uncertainty around COVID-19. Thank you for your care in these matters.

Anointing – Please note that the anointing of multiple people at corporate liturgies must be suspended at this time. The anointing with oil of a single individual on the face or head may continue in private settings only, where handwashing and sanitizing is possible both before and after the anointing. But in those places where healing ministries are normative during services, we encourage those who desire it to come forward only for the laying on of hands (on the shoulder or arm) with prayers for healing. Please inform your Lay Anointers of these protocols.

Individual Cups – The use of small, usually disposable, individual cups in the Eucharist is not normative practice in the Anglican Church and only a few parishes in the Diocese of Toronto have been allowed to do so. We are not permitting the adoption of this practice in those places not already authorised. The common cup is an important symbol in our tradition, and it is our fervent hope that we can return to its regular usage very soon. Intinction has not been permitted in the Diocese of Toronto since 2003 and remains forbidden.

Collection Plates – The person-to-person passing of collection plates is to be avoided. Only sidespersons ought to handle and pass collection plates for others to deposit their offering. If that is not practical in your setting, plates or baskets can be put out in obvious locations and parishioners directed to them. Now is a good time to remind people of alternative ways of donating in your parish – PAR, online, e-transfer, etc – which may become especially helpful if people are unable to come to church.

Hand-sanitizer - As in the past, we ask parishes to make hand-sanitizer prominently available and to encourage its use, along with rigorous handwashing.

We sincerely thank you for exercising due diligence and good judgement in all parish activities, in addition to these liturgical practices, in order to care appropriately and sensitively for the needs of the community.

Please don't hesitate to continue to send your questions to the Bishop's Office or to the Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries, chaired by the [Rev. Canon Joanne Davies](#).

With thanks,

Canon Mary Conliffe
Diocesan Executive Assistant
Bishop's Office