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TO: Clergy, wardens, and lay readers
FROM: Bishop Bruce Myers
DATE: Friday 27 March 2020
RE: Updated guidelines with respect to funerals and COVID-19

Last Friday guidelines were issued for the conduct of funerals in the Diocese of Quebec, aimed at respecting the health authorities' directives concerning COVID-19. In light of the rapidly changing situation on the ground, I am offering some updated directives.

That government decree prohibits practically all indoor and outdoor gatherings. As a result, **no funeral services may be held in church buildings**. Where cremation is not an option and a burial cannot be delayed, a brief graveside service may take place in the presence of a presider and no more than 10 other people, each respecting the two-meter personal distance recommended by health authorities.

Even though funeral homes remain in operation, because of the high risk of transmission, clergy and lay readers of the diocese may not preside at funerals in funeral homes at this time. It is worth noting that 44 new cases of COVID-19 this week have been traced to individuals who all recently attended funerals at the same funeral home in St. John's, Newfoundland.

These provisions, as well as the overall suspension of public liturgies and all other physical church-related gatherings, remain in effect until further notice. Like all of these efforts, they are aimed at protecting public health and especially the most vulnerable among us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 418 692 3858 or at bmyers@quebec.anglican.ca. Be assured of my continued prayers and support during this challenging time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,