



Episcopal Office, Diocese of Ottawa  
Anglican Church of Canada

Bureau épiscopal, Diocèse d'Ottawa  
L'Église anglicane du Canada

The Right Reverend John H. Chapman  
Bishop of Ottawa

Son Excellence Monseigneur John H. Chapman  
Évêque d'Ottawa

*With God's grace, the mission of our ministries  
is to enable people to know Jesus Christ,  
to live and share the good news,  
to grow in faith, and to serve God's world.*

April 3, 2020

To Parishes of the Diocese of Ottawa

**Re: A Time of Jubilee**

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Finally, some good news that I am able to share with you.

Through the tireless efforts of our Financial Ministry Department, the work of our Property & Finance Committee, and with the approval of our Diocesan Council, I am delighted to announce that our diocese is in a position to offer a time of **Jubilee**. While in the Book of Leviticus, Jubilee references the freeing of slaves and forgiveness of debt, the Christian Church typically references Jubilee as a time to free a community or an individual from obligation.

It is in the spirit of Jubilee that our diocesan leadership has managed to find a way that will allow parishes to hold back financial obligations to the Diocese, including Parish Fair Share, ECOPS (stipend, housing, and travel), insurance and local non-clergy salaries, for a period of two months beginning April 1, 2020. This not a loan or incurred debt. It is the forgiveness of your obligation to the Diocese for this period of time.

Some parishes will remain able to continue their financial obligations to the Diocese and it is my hope that they will continue to do so. Our calculations count on a few parishes being able to sustain their commitment and to those parishes, I am most grateful. To all others, may I encourage you to seize the moment so that you may continue to support your local ministry obligations.

This time of Jubilee is only possible if our leadership works responsibly and well. May I, on your behalf, thank all those who have worked very hard these last many years so that this gracious and grace-filled time is available to us. Freed of this particular financial worry for a time, let us thank God for this blessing and for God's continual presence in our midst. I remain,

Yours in the faith of Christ,

The Rt. Rev. John H. Chapman  
9<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Ottawa

JHC/hnp