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27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Well it has been a long journey these past 3+ months as we have experienced this unprecedented lockdown of our lives. It has not been an easy time for many in our community not only dealing with the spread of COVID-19 but also all those who run businesses, have children who attend school, or perhaps are on their own.

Thankfully due to technology we have been able to at least worship in some way together and connect over these past months. Thank you once again for all your support of the ministry of All Saint's as well as connecting and supporting each other. We now look with hope and expectation to be able to gather soon once more.

As you will be aware the Government intends to move the whole of the country into the new COVID-19 Protection Framework. This is the framework more familiar as the traffic lights system. This can be found here [Covid-19 Website](#). A strong signal has been given that following the Cabinet meeting on Monday 29th November, Auckland will be moved into the red traffic light. Other parts of the country that have not reached 90% full vaccination will also go into red.

Under this Framework with the use of vaccine certificates you are allowed church gatherings of up to 100 people in a designated space with 1 meter social distancing. In order to be able to gather safely the Diocese has undergone a lot of work preparing guidelines and policy for the Church moving ahead. Some of the issues that have been discussed are vaccine certificates for services, volunteers and staff and wearing of masks. As well as looking at how we operate safely as not only a worship space but also as a community hall.

This week the guidelines and policy that the Diocese Council has prepared will be discussed at Vestry and then feedback given to the Diocese on the guidelines and policy. The Diocesan Council will then produce a final version of the guidelines to be circulated. Once we have received this we will let you all know how we will be progressing with worship in the coming weeks.

Though it may look like we will technically be able to worship next Sunday 5th December, we are not certain if we will be prepared to do so. We will however let you all know the details ASAP. In the meantime I will still be offering online worship for the coming Sundays as we all adjust to the new framework and what lies ahead.

Advent blessings,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. P. Greatbatch".

The Reverend Jordan Greatbatch