

## Love and Truth in the Time of COVID-19: Some Pastoral and Theological Reflections (2)

Dear sisters and brothers,

Be assured of my continued prayers for you as you navigate this ever-changing world in service of the Lord and His people.

I recently came across this helpful article on leading in a season such as this:

<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-to-lead-through-rapid-unexpected-change-responding-to-covid-19/>

What struck home to me was the importance of *leadership as interpretation*. None of us should be expected or expect to have all the answers to the questions we are facing. What we can do is help each other read our current situation through the lens of Scripture, modelling the kind of Christ-centred hope and endurance that grows through trials (James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5).

One of the ways this works out is how we make decisions. In the current season some decisions, especially where public health is involved, need to be made quickly and potentially without much consultation. However, not every decision falls into this category and we need to make sure that the current abnormal pace of change doesn't stop us asking the following questions wherever possible:

- have I thought through all the implications, theological and practical, of this decision?
- have I considered other possible alternatives?
- is there someone I can talk to who could help me work through the first two questions?
- do I need to make this decision now or can I sleep on it?; and most importantly
- have I prayed and sought God's wisdom and am I willing to move at His pace?

Please be assured I, Bishop Carol, your Archdeacons and the team at the Registry are available to help you lead well at this time. Like you, we have slightly more on our plates than usual so we might take a little longer to get back to you than normal. But with God's help, and in God's time, we will come through this together.

In the Risen Jesus,

+Mark

March 27 2020