

December 15, 2021

To be read aloud and distributed via all online channels to the parish of St Philip by-the-Sea, Lantzville, on Sunday, December 19, 2021

Friends,

I had the opportunity to meet with your parish council on the evening of Thursday, December 9, and I informed them that for the month of January, instead of the congregation continuing to worship at St Philip by-the-Sea in Lantzville, as a parish you will embark on a pilgrimage to St Paul, Nanaimo and join them for their 8:00 or 10:30 services. Another option would be to watch their 10:30 livestream.

During the month of January, congregational representatives from St Philip (Lantzville) will be invited to participate in two days of meetings with representatives St Paul (Nanaimo), St Philip (Cedar) and St Mary (Nanoose Bay). The purpose of these meetings is to explore the future of the four congregations and how they might flourish together. The diocesan vision animator, Brendon Neilson, will also be in touch about setting up two evening meetings with your parish council to work on what God might be calling the congregation to next.

I am hopeful that you will consider this month-long pilgrimage as an opportunity to engage in some individual and collective discernment as to the future of your parish. This is also an opportunity to be on the receiving end of some Christian hospitality from the good people of St Paul, Nanaimo.

As you greet Christmas this year, remember that seeing the Christ child changed all who encountered him. When you embark on your pilgrimage in January, you will be sharing the good news with the congregation of St Paul as we arrive at Epiphany together. As the three Magi did, I encourage you to arrive by the guiding light with gifts in your hands; remember that you too will be changed by this journey, and like the Magi, you too may find you must travel home by a different road.

Blessings,



The Right Rev Anna Greenwood-Lee
bishop