



# OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

## Anglican Church of Canada

May 27, 2022

### **TO THE PEOPLE OF CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION, OAKVILLE** **TO BE READ AT ALL SERVICES ON SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022**

Dear Friends:

It's with mixed emotions that I am writing to let you know that I have received and accepted Michael Patterson's request to retire, concluding his role as rector of Church of the Incarnation, Oakville effective August 31, 2022.

The Venerable Michael Patterson's ministry in the Diocese of Niagara, as you know, has been significant and distinguished. Since his initial appointment in 1988, it has been marked by an unwavering dedication to pastoral, parish, and diocesan ministry. His presence among us and commitment to evangelism and missional leadership has been a blessing to many people and parishes in our diocese – and more broadly in the Canadian church. With this final step towards his well-deserved retirement, I want to take this moment to declare that we have been blessed by his partnership in the Gospel along the way and give thanks to God for his extraordinary and dedicated service to the life of our beloved diocese.

Of course, you as a parish family have seen his gifts up close. Michael, like his father before him, is a planter and nurturer of churches. He is an innovative thinker and a man of action. His modelling of care and commitment to each member of Incarnation, as people all created in the image of God, is what has steadily built your community. I know that not only will you join me in celebrating his ministry among you but also join me in celebrating the way he has affirmed and upheld your own vibrant ministries both at Incarnation but also, offering those charisms in the service of the diocese too.

Archdeacon Michael's last Sunday as your rector will be August 28, 2022. I trust that you will find an opportunity in the next while to express thanks for his ministry of more than 13 years: four as honorary assistant and then nine as rector. We all wish him well in this next stage of life and ministry.

*The Right Reverend Susan J. A. Bell*  
Cathedral Place, 252 James St. N., Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2L3 Tel: 905-527-1316  
Email: [bishop@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:bishop@niagaraanglican.ca) Twitter: @BishopSBell

In the coming weeks, I will be in touch with your wardens to begin discernment about the diocesan process for your parish's future ordained leadership.

But for now, please know that I am holding you in prayer as you make your way through this time of transition.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first name.

Bishop of Niagara

c.c. The Churchwardens  
The Venerable Jeff Ward, Archdeacon of Trafalgar  
The Reverend Canon Sue-Ann Ward, Regional Dean of Trafalgar  
Diocesan staff: Ms. Trish Foden, Ms. Carrie McFarland, Ms. Jane Wyse