



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — June 23, 2021

If you have email, you can sign up to receive *The VOICE Online*, currently published every other Wednesday. Visit [dioceseofnewark.org/subscribe](https://dioceseofnewark.org/subscribe)

## From Bishop Hughes

### Grateful? Say so!

*This is a transcript from a video message.*

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. As we continue our transition out of pandemic, I find myself grateful... grateful first of all for God and the way God has taken such wonderful care of us, of our churches, of our diocese, of our people, of all that we care about and the people around us in the communities. That in all of this time we have not ever been alone – whether we were facing tragedy or triumph, God has been there with us and God has kept us connected to each other. I do not take that for granted and I know many of you, like me, treasure that, in a way, right now more than we did before we moved into pandemic. For that I am grateful.

I am also grateful for our staff, a staff who comes together to support me and my ministry in the diocese but, even more importantly, supports all 96 of our congregations. They have been there in ways that are creative. They have been... it's been steadfast and they're bringing help to clergy and congregations. And one of the things that I admire the most in them is they not once, in this time, said no. Their response across the board has always – all through pandemic – been “Okay, let's see how we can make this happen.” They did that for me and they did that for every congregation in this diocese and I am so grateful for that.

I'm especially glad, too, for the many hands involved in putting our worship online over the last 16 months – and they continue to do that. That was not our area of expertise and with a spirit of adventure and a pressing need to make it happen, we jumped in there – clergy, lay leaders – we had a few people who were experts in doing this – and those people were tireless in their efforts to teach anybody and everybody who wanted to learn. We banded together, we shared information, we got ourselves online, we were a blessing to each other, and we were also a blessing to the wider world that was looking for a place to belong and looking for hope. I'm so grateful for all the hands that did that.

I find myself every day thanking God for the clergy of this diocese and thanking God for our wardens, treasurers and vestries. These people carried an incredible burden during this time, most of the time worried about how things were going to work out and also faithful. You can be worried and faithful at the same time and they have shown us how to do that. They took every worry to God – they have been very honest and clear with their congregations, letting them know what the challenges are. And I'm grateful not only for their truthfulness and their transparency but I'm also grateful for that steadfast generosity that they have shown to so many congregations.

There are so many people to thank: those of you who have helped keep your buildings in good working order and make sure that they were safe; those who figured out how to teach Sunday school online or to bring things to homes for children in

order to continue their spiritual growth; those of you who kept music ministry going when our people were broken-hearted that they could not sing together. And there are countless others to thank that I have not even mentioned right now. Know that I just am filled with gratitude for all of you and I want to invite you to think this same way too.

We have this crazy tendency to say thank you in a deep way only when we are parting ways – when someone is moving away or moving on or when someone dies so they aren't there anymore to even hear how grateful we are. So I want to encourage us that, in this time of transition, one of the ways we can make a complicated time more joyful is to thank those who have helped us so much along this way. It's been a gift and a blessing to serve alongside you in the midst of pandemic. It has been full of hard times and it has been full of good times and I am grateful for your presence. Please do take the time to tell another person how grateful you are for their presence.

## 2021-22 Episcopal Visitation schedule posted with new, two-year rotation

Dear Companions on the Journey,

The 2021-2022 Visitation Schedule is posted online at [dioceseofnewark.org/bishop/visitations](https://dioceseofnewark.org/bishop/visitations). You'll notice that there have been some changes made:

Our regular rotation for Episcopal Sunday Visitations is based on a three-year pattern for the majority of our churches and a two-year rotation for a small percentage of our churches. Having just completed the third year of visitations, I have a number of observations:

- A significant number of our parishes will have 25 or fewer in attendance for a visitation. While the visits with very small congregations are wonderful, because these visits are scheduled so far apart, our small congregations often talk of a sense of

separation from the rest of the diocese and from my office.

- Visitations are a time of joyful celebration. They are also a time to evaluate parish systems. I take a close look at the parish register, meet with the vestry, and the rector or priest-in-charge – all of this to make sure the church is in good working order and receiving the support needed in their region or from my office.
- We are stronger together. We learned this during pandemic -- that we are good at checking on each other, supporting each other, and doing ministry together.

As a result of what I heard from our churches over these three years, I am convinced we must try something new. Starting this September, all churches will be on a two-year rotation. In 2021-2022, I will see approximately 51 parishes on 32 Sundays. The only way to make this happen is to have a combined visitation with two or more churches on some weeks.

So, for these Sundays, one church has been designated as the location for the service and joint Coffee Hour; I will meet with the host parish's vestry after the joint Coffee Hour and the other vestry/vestries will meet with me via Zoom as soon as possible thereafter.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** *every year, we have congregations that switch visitation dates, as mutually agreeable, then they let Kay know the new plan. Due to the demands of this calendar, should you need to move your date for a specific reason (due to a fundraiser, etc.), we ask that you only approach churches with a visitation date that mirrors yours (single-to-single, multiple-to-multiple and really, only if necessary). It should also be noted that we do not schedule the Bishop's visit to coincide with church anniversaries – too much on one day!*

I look forward to joining the 2021-22 Visitation congregations for worship and conversation in the new program year.

Grace and peace,  
*Bishop Hughes*

## Features

### Learning and doing new things: Preview of the 147th Convention

*By Nina Nicholson, Director of Communications*

When the 147th Annual Diocesan Convention is finally held this Saturday, June 26 after a five-month postponement, it will be the first large in-person diocesan gathering since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. While it will comply with all canonical and state requirements for a diocesan convention, pandemic-related safety precautions will make it quite a different experience than previous conventions. Whether you plan to attend in person as a Deputy, or to simply watch it online, here's what you need to know.

"We are checking off the boxes we need to," said John King, Secretary of Convention. King has spent months consulting with Bishop Hughes, Chancellor Diane Sammons, Parliamentarian Carol Harrison-Arnold, and the chairs of the Rules of Order Committee, Allison Garde and John Webb, to ensure this Convention meets all legal and canonical requirements while also protecting the health of participants.

Besides postponing Convention from January until June, which allowed time for many people to be vaccinated and infection rates to begin to subside, the other major changes are the venue, the number of participants, and the length of the agenda.

Instead of a hotel convention center, this Convention will be held outdoors on the grounds of Christ Church, Short Hills, under a tent, with chairs

placed 6 feet apart, a setup that will accommodate 125 people. Most of that number will be the 101 deputies who have registered to represent 35 churches, satisfying the requirement that at least 10 churches be represented for a quorum. The remaining spaces will be filled by members of the Bishop's staff and the Arrangements Committee, as well as the professional live stream technicians. Regretfully, guests cannot attend in-person, but the entire Convention will be live streamed to the diocesan YouTube channel, [youtube.com/c/dionewark](https://www.youtube.com/c/dionewark), for anyone who wishes to view it remotely.

Convention will follow the Journey Forward guidelines. Social distancing will be observed. Because it is an outdoor event, masks are not required except for singing, although they will be encouraged. There will be multiple hand sanitizer stations.

To keep this Convention as brief as possible, the agenda has been trimmed down to the absolute essentials: a service of Holy Eucharist, which will include the Bishop's address as the homily; annual reports of the governing bodies; elections to diocesan offices; and the annual HR resolution as well as a resolution formally closing Trinity, Cliffside Park. The diocese's 2021 budget already has been approved by Diocesan Council.

Registration will open at 9 AM, with the Call to Order at 9:30 AM. After some initial business, the Service of Holy Eucharist will begin at 10 AM, followed by the remaining business. Convention will conclude shortly after 12 noon with a brief remembrance and prayer for diocesan leaders who died during 2020.

Because of the event's brevity, no meals will be served, but bottled water and snack bars will be provided.

The theme for this year's Convention is: *Behold, God is making all things new: What new things are we learning?* At our 2022 Convention – currently planned for our traditional time in late January, just

seven months away – the theme will be: *Behold, God is making all things new: What new things can we do?* At this Convention, we will indeed be experiencing a new thing for us and applying the many new things we have learned during the past 16 months. But however different the experience, this gathering will be an opportunity for the fellowship and celebration to nourish us for the path ahead, as we continue to absorb the new things we are learning and begin to discern the new things God is calling us to do.

# Diocesan Announcements

## Clergy ministry transitions

### Arrivals

- **The Rev. Deacon Katherine Rollo**  
Curate, Holy Spirit, Verona  
July 1

### Departures

- **The Rev. Diana Wilcox**  
Priest-in-Residence, Annunciation, Oradell  
June 2
- **The Rev. Elizabeth Wigg-Maxwell**  
Rector, St. Peter's, Livingston  
June 30

### Leaving on Disability

- **The Rev. Mary Davis**  
Rector, St. Paul's, Chatham  
July 11

### Retirements

- **The Rev. Susan Sica**  
Rector, St. Gregory's, Parsippany  
September 1