



# DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

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From the Bishop

Sunday July 30th, 2017

Dear friends at the Church of the Ascension,

This morning you will be hearing the good news that I have appointed the Rev'd Aidan Armstrong as your full time Incumbent, effective October 1st. Fr. Aidan, as he is fondly known in his present congregations, serves as the rector of the five parishes on Manitoulin Island. In the past year he has done some tremendous work in bringing those five congregations closer together while recognizing each point's individual character. In addition to possessing a confident and energetic faith and excellent leadership abilities, he is described by the Island Wardens as having a "*contagious positive attitude, optimism, and reluctance to be discouraged.*"

I am hoping that this news will be welcomed with great joy at the Ascension and I look forward to watching a new and exciting chapter in your lives unfold in the years to come under Fr. Aidan's leadership. Fr. Aidan will be moving to Sudbury with his wife Sarah and they are expecting their first child in November. The rectory on Rinfret Street will be their new home.

Not only am I happy for you as Fr. Aidan brings with him some marvelous gifts of ministry, but I am also happy for Fr. Aidan as there are some vital ministries taking place at the Ascension that he is excited about as he embarks on this new ministry. I am enjoying imagining him preaching on Sundays, leading Wednesday morning Bible Studies, connecting with the parish youth and children, and helping at the Out of the Cold dinners. He was at Youth Synod this year and does a pretty amazing break dance!

I would like to thank the Ascension Concurrence Committee for the prayerful, thorough and faithful way in which they discerned whether Fr. Aidan would be a good fit at the Ascension. It was a pleasure for me and the Executive Archdeacon Harry Huskins to meet with the committee members in person recently to answer questions and to discuss the appointment process.

I would also like to thank Fr. Bob for his excellent leadership as Part-Time Interim Incumbent over the last few months. While most of you only see him on Sundays I know that he has given a great deal of time to meeting with parish members to get to know them and also to minister to the sick and the frail elderly.

The wardens have been faithful in keeping an eye on the day to day smooth running of the parish and they are also to be thanked for their work in God's kingdom. In the coming days they will be arranging for a 'meet and greet' for Fr. Aidan and Sarah in the parish and I ask you to keep them in your prayers during this time of change and transition. I also ask you to pray for the five congregations on Manitoulin Island who are receiving the news today of Aidan's appointment at the Ascension. They will be sad to lose him but I know they will wish him and Sarah blessings of peace and joy.

In giving thanks for this new appointment I ask you to give thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for His love which binds us together and calls us to be the Church, and I urge you to keep trusting in that love as you move forward into a new beginning.

*"I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1.6)*

With blessings and affection,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Germond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. Anne Germond  
Bishop of Algoma