

Pastoral Letters from the Bishop (2016)

It is a matter of discipline and an absolute requirement that all clergy, without exception, read pastorals of the diocesan bishop as appointed.

In the Anglican Church of Canada, the diocesan bishop has the primary charge over people in his/her diocese and has the right and duty to communicate with the people from time to time. It has been traditional to have pastoral letters read in all churches as an economic and most direct method of communicating important matters. The reading of the pastoral has the same effect as though the pastoral was mailed individually to each person. No person, lay or clerical, has any right to interpose himself or herself between the bishop and the people, nor can any person in any way attempt to censor or restrict such communication. It is not within the power of any Rector/Priest in Charge or lay person to withhold such communication for any reason from the people of their parish and it is improper for any person, other than the diocesan bishop, to assume the responsibility which is exercised by a bishop when he/she decides to issue a pastoral.

