



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

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MEMO

Date: March 12, 2020
To: All Clergy, Parishes, Schools, Church Groups, & Ministries
From: Bishop Gary Gordon
Re: Directives for Groups & Ministries in Response to COVID-19

As we continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 in Canada, we must be diligent in our efforts to lessen the potential spread of the virus. We know that the well-being of your loved ones are the most important concern for you during this time.

We want to let you know that we are monitoring the situation closely, and we believe that the risk of COVID-19 adversely affecting our parishes remains low.

However, some of the things that we can do to anticipate and minimize the possible spread of the virus are:

1. Remain vigilant about hand hygiene, and avoid unnecessary contact (hand shaking, hugging etc.)
2. Out of consideration for the well-being of others in the community, the elderly, anyone with an underlying health condition, and those who feel even remotely unwell are excused from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.
3. If parishioners have access to television or the internet, those who remain at home may watch Mass at <https://dailytvmass.com/> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass> or on VisionTV.
4. In order to reduce social isolation, I encourage everyone to find ways to mobilize people to make phone calls to those who must remain at home, and to provide services such as delivering food and necessary items. Being in regular contact with other parishioners will alleviate loneliness for the homebound.
5. Social gatherings such as pancake breakfasts, pot lucks, buffets, etcetera, that are not essential to the congregation should be suspended until COVID-19 passes.
6. Practice social distancing (2 metres apart) as much as possible.

The situation is fluid and subject to rapid change. We will continue to stay informed, and will share relevant information with you as it is released to us.

We continue to pray for one another, those who are sick, and for our whole society that we may live in charity, be free of anxiety, that our gracious God will bring a swift end to COVID-19, and grant us strength in these challenging times.