



Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP'S OFFICE

March 18, 2020

Reverend and dear Fathers and Deacons,

Given the gravity of the threat of COVID-19 spreading across the province, country and the world and the rapidly changing government measures becoming increasingly stringent, please be advised of:

1. 75th Diocesan Anniversary on May 30, 2020

It has been deemed prudent and responsible by the organizing committee to cancel the celebration of our 75th Diocesan Anniversary on May 30, 2020. We are very grateful to Dianne Barker and Sheila Doherty and to those who have been involved in planning, preparing and organizing this milestone celebration.

2. Chrism Mass & Presbyteral Council Meeting on April 7, 2020

Since the Chrism Mass on April 7th will be closed to the public, you are most welcome to concelebrate with me, if you wish. However, the Presbyteral Council meeting originally scheduled after Mass on that day will be postponed until further notice.

3. Parish Lenten Penitential Services

- a) All communal penitential services are to be cancelled.
- b) Provision is to be made for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be available to all who seek it, taking into account the following considerations:
 - Confessions should be heard in a room large enough to allow at least a two-metre distance between the priest and penitent, but without being overheard.
 - Please make provisions for a portable screen or other means for those who wish to confess anonymously. This may require playing a chant or other music in the background. I rely on you to find other creative ways to make it possible for the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

4. Mass, Private Prayer and the Blessed Sacrament

- a) Parish regular Sunday Mass should be cancelled. However, priests should offer Mass privately on Sundays for the intention of his parishioners.
- b) Mass on weekdays remains open to the public for now, with strict compliance to the provincial government's and health authorities' restrictions to the number of people for any public gathering.
- c) Churches are to remain open as usual for private prayer. Daily Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is encouraged for as many hours as possible. Ensure by suitable means that the required "social distancing" is observed by those at prayer.

I am grateful for your understanding during these challenging times which require patience, flexibility and courage to work for the care and safety of our community, our local Church, our country and our world.

Please notify your parishioners and keep them abreast of these messages using all the communication channels available to you: parish bulletins, emails, website and phone calls to those who do not have access to the internet and social media.

Fraternally in Christ,

✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops