



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC V8X 2A1 – Tel: (250) 479-1331 – Fax: (250) 479-5423 – Web: rdvictoria.org

MEMO

Date: March 12, 2020
To: Pastors and Parish Support Staff
From: Bishop Gary Gordon
Cynthia Bouchard, Chancellor
Re: Directives for the Diocese in Response to COVID-19

Please share the following with your parishioners and include the directives below in the parish bulletin.

The emergence of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) is impacting people worldwide and has led to understandable concern among the faithful. Coronaviruses are thought to be spread mainly from person to person through close contact. Entrusted with the mission of Jesus to care for all the members of our community, following Jesus' great command to love God and our neighbour (Matthew 22:37-40) parishioners are encouraged to observe the following:

- Stay home if they are sick or feeling unwell;
- Practice good hygiene, including frequent hand washing;
- Avoid hand-to-hand contact during the Our Father and the Sign of Peace;
- Ministers distributing Communion should use the hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of Communion;
- Communion hosts should be received only on the hand, not on the tongue;
- The Precious Blood should not be distributed until further notice;
- Holy Water should be removed from the fonts;
- Celiacs and those with special needs are encouraged to consult their pastor;
- **Parishioners are encouraged to practice social distancing at this time, that is maintaining a distance of two-metres from one another.**

**For the most up to date information please go to the BC Centre for Disease Control
<http://www.bccdc.ca/>**

Your prayers for all those affected by COVID-19 are greatly appreciated.

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