



Diocese of Prince George Office of the Bishop

Dispensation from the Sunday Obligation

On Monday, March 16 the BC Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health announced further restrictions on public gatherings to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, limiting the number of persons who may gather for events of any kind to no more than 50.

Until further notice, Bishop Jensen has dispensed the people of the diocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The regular Sunday Mass schedule is suspended. Priests will only offer Mass privately on Sunday, so that the worship of God may continue through the Church even when there is no congregation present.

Daily Mass may continue to be open to the public, at least for now (in some jurisdictions, the limit of persons allowed to gather has been lowered to 10; in BC it is still at 50).

The Sacrament of Penance will be available as usual, with accommodations for “social distancing”.

The Chrism Mass has been postponed to a later date.

It is not clear how long these restrictions will be in effect. Further direction regarding the liturgies of Holy Week and the Triduum will be forthcoming as more information becomes available.

It goes without saying that regular parish meetings and other gatherings should be canceled. The point is: people should be staying home. In these unprecedented times, we must follow the best practices recommended by science, even as we implore the mercy of God to deliver us from this evil.

March 20, 2020