



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

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MEMO

Date: March 16, 2020

To: Clergy, Parishes, Religious, Principals, and all Staff

From: Bishop Gary Gordon

Re: Suspension of Meetings & Gatherings (Two pages)

As I continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, the protocols for reducing the spread of COVID-19 are constantly changing. Today B.C. Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has asked British Columbians to cancel gatherings of 50 people or more. Out of concern for the well-being of our parishioners, staff, and the public, I am suspending all meetings and social gatherings in the Diocese including but not limited to:

Diocesan and Parish Activities

- Summer Family Camp Planning
- Foundations of the Faith Classes
- Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC)
- ICS Faith Representative gatherings
- Marriage Preparation Courses
- Conferences
- Lay Ministers' Retreat
- Veritas Adult Faith Formation
- Sacramental Preparation gatherings
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes / gatherings
- Service clubs: CWL, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul
- Pastoral Council & Finance Committee meetings
- Prayer groups
- Lenten Missions
- Mission / Study Groups
- Bus to the Chrism Mass
- Pastoral Care Outreach Training
- Youth Groups and Youth Group Trips
- Knights of Columbus Half-Day Retreat, March 21, 2020
- Development & Peace events
- Bible Study sessions/groups
- Pastoral Outreach Home & Hospital Visits

Alternatives:

- Online Teleconferences
- Postpone or Cancel



I recommend that everyone continue to practice social distancing of one to two metres, and it is also important that as children of God, we continue via phone or email to perform acts of charity by staying in contact with friends, neighbours, co-workers, and parishioners who may be self-isolating. Remember also to thank anyone in the frontline who is still serving the community.

SERENITY PRAYER

Reinhold Niebuhr

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

AMEN.

We continue to pray for everyone who has been affected by COVID-19, especially those who have lost their lives and their families.