

## MEMORANDUM

### Diocesain Guidelines

March 17, 2020

Until further notice:

- Public masses in church are cancelled every day of the week, as well as all pastoral and other liturgical/devotional gatherings;
- Keep church doors open as long as possible each day to welcome people, arrange for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to facilitate personal prayer, make personal accompaniment and the Sacrament of Reconciliation available, while respecting the social-distance requirement of keeping one-metre apart;
- Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals: postponed until public-health concerns diminish. However, should a funeral be held with bodily remains present, rather than cremated, it might not be possible to postpone the liturgy. The funeral must, therefore, be celebrated “in camera” (privately, with restricted attendance);
- Priests, permanent deacons, people of consecrated life and lay people who are 70 years of age and above must stay at home;
- Priests and staff able to exercise their ministry are urged to respond to the needs of the sick on an individual basis, including offering Communion at home and the Anointing of the Sick, and in the case of an institutional setting, following the protocol established by management;
- In the case of individuals nearing the end of life and their families, special attention is required, and in the case of an institutional setting, following the protocol established by management;
- Visit our website at <https://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/covid-19> to find information on televised daily Mass and various spiritual resources available on digital platforms (website and social media).

- Guidelines for those engaged in pastoral ministry are in preparation and will be communicated as soon as possible.