

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 57 — JANUARY 28, 2022
REMINDER AND INFORMATION

To pastoral teams,
To priests, deacons, PCLs, LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To members of religious communities,
To the Archdiocesan staff,

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Here are some important items of information, along with some instructions and reminders for our continuing mission in the Church:

1. IMPORTANT REMINDER - DIOCESAN SYNODAL PROCESS

Implementing the synodal process for today and the future: training sessions, February 1 to 10

The session to open up the Diocesan Handbook and Toolbox together was attended by nearly 180 participants on January 20. Thank you all for your interest. Those who would like to see the video of this event can click [here](#).

I would remind you that two more virtual meetings will be held **to provide us training** in the synodal process **using practical exercises**. The **first session** will offer a real-time experience of a **spiritual conversation**, enabling members of a group to become attentive together to the invitations of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the **second session** will be to prepare us in how to facilitate **a meeting in our community**, referring to the diocesan handbook and using the approach of a spiritual conversation.

These training sessions will strengthen us as we walk together, both today and on a lasting basis into the future as we pursue the spirit of synodality.

Sessions are offered on several dates and for both English- and French-speakers, from February 1 to 10: [Register online](#)

2. Reopening places of worship, February 7, 2022

You must already have heard the good news. Let me confirm as follows the guidelines applying to places of worship as of February 7:

A. Indoor liturgical gatherings:

- Permitted 50% capacity of the place of worship, up to a maximum of 250 people.

- Vaccination passports mandatory.
- Wearing of masks, physical distancing of one metre and hand-washing remain mandatory.
- Meeting over coffee after the service is not permitted.

These guidelines apply to regular services, baptisms, marriages, funerals and all other Masses. Only for funerals may an exception be made; if the family chooses not to require vaccination passports, the maximum number of participants allowed is 50.

B. Outdoor liturgical gatherings:

- Number of participants limited to 250.
- Vaccination passports not required.
- Physical distancing of one metre to be maintained separating participants.
- In our diocese, masks are still mandatory during these celebrations.

The decision will be left with the pastoral teams whether to continue to offer Masses outdoors, and their discernment will take into consideration the circumstances in their particular settings, as well as their communities' wishes. If in the present circumstances your pastoral setting intends to offer one or more Masses outdoors, please advise us by completing this [form](#) as soon as possible so that we can update your information on the diocesan [website](#) and keep it as current as possible.

C. Personal prayer and meditation in church; individual meetings

- A place of worship may open for the purposes of personal prayer and meditation. General guidelines respecting places of worship then apply: 50% capacity of the place of worship up to a maximum of 250 people, vaccination passports, etc.
- Meetings of individuals taking place indoors for the purposes of welcoming, listening and support are permitted. Vaccination passports are required and masks must be worn.

D. Other activities

- Rooms and spaces may not be rented for private events of any kind (for instance following a christening or marriage). Only community group activities are allowed and must comply with their own rules.
- Working remotely remains normal practice. Meetings of churchwardens, pastoral teams and committees are not to be held in person. They must be held by telephone or videoconferencing.
- Further details will follow next week concerning catechetical activities, among other items.

3. Abuse Response Training Program: Victim-centred Approach

Our diocese has decisively undertaken the **important shift of placing victims of abuse at the centre of our concerns**. In order to strengthen this commitment, Archbishop Lépine requests that all those, whether mandated or volunteers, involved in any sphere of activity at all in the Church (pastoral or administration), should receive **training to help them better recognize and report abuse** in whatever form.

The first phase of the programme begins in the coming days and continues until May. This **concerns only pastoral staff and Archdiocese employees**. A second phase will be announced later in the year, addressing other groups of those involved, volunteers, churchwardens, catechists, Fabrique employees, etc.

Please see the following documents:

- [Message from the Archbishop](#)
- [Communiqué – Responsible Pastoral Ministry](#)
- [Awareness and training program](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the times we are living in are demanding! I assure you of my prayers for you that, in spite of the many challenges that arise to test your resolve, you will always be filled with that invincible peace and joy that comes to us through the Resurrection of our Saviour.

In Him,

† Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal