



## COVID-19: Preventive Measures & Liturgy Cancellations: March 23rd Update

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Here are some new guidelines related to COVID-19. The situation is changing rapidly. We must comply with the requirements of NB Public Health, to protect our people and reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

**Holy Week:** All Holy Week celebrations are cancelled.

**Funerals:** These may still take place in the church, but with a very strictly limited number of people, within a Celebration of the Word (no Mass). It is preferable for the time being to hold this celebration at the funeral home, to avoid moving from one venue to another and to minimize the risk of contact. Memorial masses will be held later in parishes for all the deceased who did not have a celebration in the church.

**Baptisms:** If possible, all baptisms should be postponed. If a baptism must absolutely take place, participants will be limited to the parents, godfather and godmother. No community celebration.

**Diocesan and parish secretariat: all diocesan and parish offices are immediately closed to the general public until further notice.** It is proposed to strictly limit access to all offices for the protection of employees who are still working.

The “**Vision Bookstore**” is also closed until further notice.

**Mass:** All Masses and Celebrations of the Word remain suspended until further notice. Churches may be opened at the usual times to allow the faithful to come in for private prayer or worship, whilst maintaining the requisite social distance as per Public Health guidelines..

**Parish Activities:** There shall be no reception (lunch) following a funeral in our churches and all other activities (bingo, brunch, etc.) are also suspended.

I invite people to unite in prayer with their brothers and sisters by listening to a televised Mass or by reading the Word of God using their Bible or resources available on the web. **You can watch a daily mass by clicking here:** <https://dailytvmass.com/daily-tv-mass/>

Let us pray all for those affected by the virus, for those who feel distress as a result of it, and for health care workers who generously dedicate themselves to serving those in need. And may God give us the grace to remain calm and serene.

Mgr Valery Vienneau

Archbishop of Moncton

