



April 24, 2020

To all Pastors and Faithful of the Diocese of Prince Albert,

Greetings to you as we continue the mission of Christ during this challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With this letter, be advised all diocesan public events and celebrations until June 30, 2020 will be either cancelled or postponed, including the following:

MAY - JUNE 2020		
May 4-8	Annual Priests Retreat	Postponed
May 9	Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting (DPCE)	Postponed
May 21-23	Making Disciples Institute with Team RCIA	Postponed
May 30	Altar Server Appreciation Day (ASAD)	Cancelled
June 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (St. Laurent Shrine)	Cancelled
June 6	Consultation and Engagement Gathering Big River FN	Postponed
June 12	Diocesan Family Conference 2020 (St. Laurent Shrine)	Postponed
June 14	St. Theresa National Shrine Annual Celebration	Cancelled
June 18	Senate of Priests (Tentative by Zoom)	TBD
June 18	Anniversaries of Priests	Postponed
June 19	Ordinations to the Permanent Diaconate	Postponed
Apr-June 30	All Confirmations	Postponed
Apr-June 30	Masses (except online)	Cancelled

In addition, I would like to bring to your attention a letter we recently received from the Public Health Agency of Canada addressed to the Faith Community Leaders of the nation. The letter has been included for your reference. I would especially encourage you to read the fourth paragraph which supports not having small gatherings on homes apartments, and multipurpose rooms. This is very important.

'To help our people rediscover Christ, the incarnate word of God because we are all called to holiness'

So, as you know, currently, we also remain under strict guidance from the Saskatchewan Health Authority to not gather with more than 10 persons. This includes weddings and funerals. Therefore, for weddings that are performed in our facilities, they must adhere to these rules. No more than 10 persons in the building. This must take into account everyone, musicians, pastor, wedding party and guests. No exceptions. And, we must respect the order to continue social distancing at 2 meters. This would include the bride and groom. Therefore, I would suggest the wedding be postponed to a better time.

For funerals, again, we must not gather as more than 10 persons. As the numbers may increase in the church setting, it may be advisable that when a funeral involves a casket to have the funeral in the chapel of the funeral home until the Health Authority Order is lifted. If the service is with ashes, then a celebration could be postponed until a later date. However, speak with your pastor and decide what best meets the needs of the family and community.

As many of you know, a few thousand of our diocesan family members have been gathering together virtually every Sunday for Mass. These live streamed celebrations will continue every Sunday until further notice on Facebook. The celebrations will also be posted later in the day at www.padiocese.ca for those who cannot make the 10:00 a.m. celebration time.

May the peace and blessings of the Lord be with you, always.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Albert Thévenot, M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert

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