



# Catholic Diocese of Victoria

*Office of the Bishop*

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October 19, 2020

Dear People of God, Clergy, Religious, Administrators, and Staff,

Grace and Peace in Christ! During this time of Thanksgiving, I wish to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation for your contribution to the successful reopening of our churches and schools. Thank you, for the great care and concern that you have demonstrated amid the challenges, fears, and anxieties brought on by the pandemic. Your kindness towards one another as we have reopened our churches and schools has been exemplary. Thank you, for your patience with one another as we experience changes in how we gather and learn to connect and support one another in new ways. Thank you, for making individual and collective sacrifices to remain calm and careful during the pandemic to keep one another safe.

After much consultation with clergy, support staff, and parishioners throughout the Diocese, the time has come to renew and update our parish Directives and protocols. We have learned to be resilient as we have adjusted to the “new normal” and live with the challenges presented by the pandemic during the past seven months. We know that our local and global vulnerability to this contagion can change rapidly, and we need to remain flexible and vigilant, while we follow closely the directions provided by our Public Health Authorities. There is strong evidence to support physical distancing, handwashing, sanitizing, small social bubbles, and masks to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Furthermore, we know that our spiritual, emotional, and mental health is vitally important for our overall well-being, and we must endeavour, ever more diligently, to stay connected as worshipping, praying, faith communities. As members of God’s family, let us ensure that we leave no one behind on the pilgrim journey.

The revised Directives serve to assist our faith communities to flourish and allow us to gather safely as missionary disciples. We are called to renew our passion and commitment to encounter in new ways, the weak, the marginalized, the broken and the wounded, so that all may experience the mercy of Christ and the love of God. Our vulnerability, both individually and globally, leads us to a greater thankfulness for the blessings of family, friends, and faith. May our Blessed Mother Mary draw us ever closer to her Son Jesus, who will show a path forward towards a horizon of hope for all.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon  
Bishop of Victoria

Attachments: Revised Directives for Parishes (October 19, 2020)  
Revised Liturgical Directives (October 19, 2020)  
Health Check and Contact Tracing form