



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2020

TO: All diocesan and religious priests

COPY: Permanent deacons, Parish Life Directors, Seminarians, Parish Secretaries, Superiors of Religious Congregations, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils, Employees of the Archdiocesan Centre

FROM: Most Reverend Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of Saint Boniface

SUBJECT: Supplemental Information to the Weekly Update **No. 3**

Dear friends,

As we prepare for the celebrations of the Triduum and Easter, I would like to bring **new items** to your attention.

Liturgical Matters

- 1) I encourage priests to invite their parishioners to pray **the nine-day Divine Mercy Novena** leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, 2020. The novena would begin on Good Friday, April 10th. The intention of this Divine Mercy Novena will be for an end to the coronavirus health crisis in Canada and throughout the world. We include in our prayers the intentions of all health care workers and those who are struggling with the virus and those who have died. You can click on the following link to view the Divine Mercy Chaplet: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

We are seeing if we can livestream the Mass from the Divine Mercy Shrine at St. Andrew Bobola Parish on Sunday, April 19, at 3:00 PM. Please refer to our diocesan Website for further details regarding this.

- 2) Priests are reminded that, because the Mass of Chrism has been postponed, if necessary, they may bless the **Oil of the Sick**. It is necessary to use olive oil and to pray the blessing.

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Public Health Matters

- 1) **A further clarification from the Chief Public Health Officer:** On April 8, 2020, our Communications Coordinator, Mr. Daniel Bahuaud, once again wrote to the Government of Manitoba asking a further question. The following is both the question and the answer received by the Government of Manitoba.

Question: I've been asked by the Archdiocese of St. Boniface for some clarification on the question of priests visiting hospitals or nursing homes. Under what conditions can they do so? At this point, we're assuming palliative or grave issues only. In other words, an opportunity for a pastor to administer last rites and pastoral care for a patient who is seriously ill. If that is the case, is there an overall policy about these visits, or must pastors contact individual hospitals and nursing homes to obtain permission to enter? Also, are there recommended protocols for when they do visit a patient in a hospital or a nursing home?

Answer: Public health officials are recommending the immediate suspension of visitors in long-term care facilities across Manitoba. Exceptions for compassionate reasons or end of life will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of individual facility managers. Please check the following website at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/index.html#safehealthy> for information regarding visiting Personal/Long Term Care Homes.

- 2) **Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada**, has published a letter addressed to faith leaders in Canada, dated April 3, 2020. To view this letter please click on the web-link below: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-letter-faith-community-leaders-from-canada-chief-public-health-officer.html?utm_source=cpho-email&utm_medium=eml&utm_content=faith-leaders-fr&utm_campaign=covid-1920

I wish you a holy Triduum and may your hearts and your home be filled with the blessings of Easter.



+ Albert LeGatt

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Archbishop of Saint Boniface