



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 21, 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: **Weekend Masses of May 23 and 24, 2020**

Dear friends,

As of Friday, May 22, 2020, Manitoba's Chief Health Public Officer, D. Brent Roussin, has increased the limit on the size of public gatherings to 25 people, but no more, for indoor premises, provided social distancing and sanitization measures are in place.

Notwithstanding this government notice, I am asking all pastors to not increase the limit to 25 people for the masses of this coming weekend, May 23 and 24, but rather to wait until the weekend masses of May 30 and 31. This will allow the diocese more time to prepare clear and detailed guidelines/information which will be sent to you next week as we issue **Protocol IV.**

An in-depth discussion regarding all necessary measures that each parish must have in place for liturgical gatherings of 25 people will take place tomorrow, Friday, May 22, at the Deans' meeting scheduled for 10:00 AM. The Weekly Update which will be sent out later tomorrow will give further details.

Therefore, for the masses of this coming weekend, I ask you to continue to follow the directives communicated to you in our Weekly Update No. 8 dated May 15, 2020.

Restrictions on group sizes (10 people), including for church services, are in place in Manitoba, and there is currently no



set end date for when these restrictions may be lifted. However, more than ten people may attend services scheduled one after the other, if “shifts” can be done to ensure no more than 10 people are in the same venue at one time.

It is already permitted in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface to have ten (10) people present for the priests’ “private” masses. This maximum of 10 people includes the priest. Parishes can publish the dates and times of Masses in their bulletins and through other communication means.

This assumes that all necessary measures are in place to ensure control over the number of people (no more than 10) who are in contact with each other at any given moment. All hygiene and disinfection measures must also be ensured between the Masses.

Thank you for your cooperation. Let us all continue to pray for one another and to walk as one.

+ Albert LeGatt

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Archbishop of Saint Boniface



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