



Office of the Bishop

New Memo – COVID19

24 March 2020

Dear Pastors, Parish Staff and Parishioners,

Greetings in the Lord! Subsequent to the information being provided by our provincial health authorities and our provincial and federal governments, we need to continue to take precautions to protect one another and prevent the spread of the corona virus.

Therefore, in accord with our health and governmental authorities, and the recent Decree issued by the Holy Father:

1. Chrism Mass: will be postponed until such time we can safely gather as a diocesan family to celebrate.
2. Easter Triduum: will be live-streamed as has been done these last Sundays of Lent. We will strive to provide resources to help everyone participate. We will send the times of the celebrations as soon as they have been determined.
3. Sick calls/Anointing of Sick: please follow the instructions issued by your local health care institutions regarding sick calls or anointings. The following should assist you in an actual visit to a resident or patient if they are in isolation or on respiratory or other precautions:
 - i) Follow all the instructions specified on the door of a patient's room to mask, glove or gown. Ask for assistance from the nursing staff if you are unsure.
 - ii) Do not bring anything into the room such as a Pastoral Care book, or container of the oil of the sick, etc.
 - iii) Make a copy or print up the Rite for Anointing and the Prayers for the Dead on a single sheet of paper so that you can dispose of it in the room after use.
 - iv) Ask one of the nursing staff for a "med cup" (plastic) for a small amount of the oil of the sick. When finished, dispose of the med cup in the "sharp's container" before leaving the patient's room. The sharp's container is incinerated when no longer usable.
 - v) Wash your hands after seeing the patient.

God bless all of you and keep you well,

✠ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson