



Prot. No. 20-006

March 13, 2020

Dear Priests, Deacons, and Faithful,

On Friday, the premier of Nova Scotia announced several measures to mitigate against the transmission of Covid-19 including the request that all gatherings be limited to no more than 150 people.

In solidarity with the recommendations of our provincial government, our health care authorities, as well as in consultation with my fellow Atlantic Bishops, I am instructing as of Monday, March 16, 2020 all Masses, both Sunday and weekday, Liturgies of the Word, and all other liturgical gatherings be suspended until further notice. This also applies to all other large parish gatherings. More precise directives will be forth coming regarding funerals, weddings, and Holy Week.

This action is taken as an expression of responsibility for the well-being of all entrusted to our care, as well as the common good of the broader community. This directive applies to all parishes, churches, and other places of worship. Until further notice I am asking all of our faithful to call on the grace of God to support us in this difficult situation. I recommend where possible that our churches remain open for the faithful to come for personal prayer, for adoration of the reserved Sacrament, or private devotions. Let us remain prayerfully united in communion with all of our brothers and sisters where possible by following Mass on television or by meditating on the Scriptures for each Sunday.

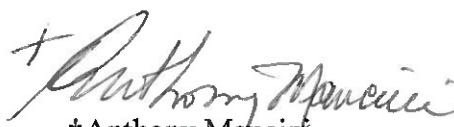
During this time, I would expect all priests to celebrate Mass privately, to continue to make themselves available for the personal pastoral care of those entrusted to them by offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of the Sick, and to continue to provide encouragement and pastoral solicitude.


I ask all our deacons to continue to be of service to those in need by your visits and your attention to the poor, the sick, and those suffering in any other way.

I invite all of our religious to pray for the Archdiocese as we journey through these challenging days.

In conclusion, let all of us pray for those affected with the virus, for those who are feeling distress as a result of it, and for healthcare workers who devote themselves generously to serving those in need.

And may God give us the grace to remain calm and serene.


† Anthony Mancini
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth


Rev. Mr. Robert Doyle
Chancellor