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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** ALL PRIESTS AND PARISHES  
OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

**FROM:** BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ *+MBGJ.*

**SUBJECT:** LITURGY DURING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK **UPDATE #4**

**DATE:** MARCH 14, 2020



Dear Fathers in our Contra Costa County parishes,

Just two hours ago, **Contra Costa County** issued a decree banning all gatherings of 100 or more people under penalty of misdemeanor, from March 15-31. Exemptions were given for classrooms and hospitals, airports and dormitories, and homeless camps. But no exceptions were made for houses of worship.

Here is how we will proceed for Sunday Masses in our **Contra Costa County parishes:**

1. You may still conduct Mass for up to 100 people. Attendance may already be down because of the dispensation from the Sunday obligation and general health concern.
2. You may cancel the Mass. (The extreme option).
3. **At the suggestion of a couple of pastors, here is an excellent middle option:**

**Expose the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar all day Sunday. Let people come in and pray at the time of their convenience. Have a priest or deacon on duty all day to offer Holy Communion. Give the people a leaflet with Sunday Scripture and a short reflection, which they could take home for further prayer. This will diffuse the attendance, let people spread out in the church, and still offer them spiritual nourishment and support.**

Thank you for being attentive to the flock the Lord has entrusted to your care.

*"All those the Father gives me will come to me,  
and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."  
John 6:37*