

## TO MY BELOVED PARISHIONERS

May the peace and mercy of Christ Jesus be with you!

The Bishop of our Diocese, Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, has issued further directives regarding the novel coronavirus this morning and that is what I want to share with you:

- Priests will continue to celebrate Mass without congregation. Parishioners can join in spiritual communion from their homes.
- Limit the number of people who can gather in one place (10) at the same time.
- All Catholics in the Diocese of Victoria are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass and other holy days of obligations until March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Parishioners are also encouraged to watch the Sunday Mass on TV and live stream at [www.olvcathedral.org](http://www.olvcathedral.org). You may also tune in to any Catholic Channel and watch the Mass. Hallettsville also broadcasts the Sunday Mass at 8:00 am on Texas Thunder Radio (FM 99.9).
- Pastors and teachers of the Faith are encouraged to Catechize and Evangelize using modern communication methods (For our Parish, much of the information will be sent through our Facebook accounts (Holy Cross Catholic Church, Holy Cross Faith Formation), our website ([eastbernardcatholic.org](http://eastbernardcatholic.org)), emails or through WhatsApp).
- Visits to the homebound, nursing facilities and hospitals are discouraged, except in cases of pastoral necessity and emergencies. When visiting such facilities, priests and others, please follow protocols set by the Center for Disease Control regarding hygiene practices, before, during and after the visit.
- All scheduled parish events are cancelled, these include Penance Services (Confessions), Stations of the Cross, RCIA, Religious Education Classes, Adult Formation Classes, meetings, activities and all other liturgical gatherings. Virtual means for meetings and instructions are encouraged if parishes have the means to do so.
- Weddings, funerals and baptisms will continue but **attendance is limited to only 10 immediate family members.**
- Confirmation this year will be rescheduled.
- The Church will remain open for private prayers and private Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as long as it does not pose a risk to others. **Protocols for social distancing must be observed.**
- **In emergencies, and for Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office or call the parish emergency line and it will go directly to Fr. Charles. The Office will open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 8.00 am – 1.00 pm.**

**You may bring your weekly collections/donations to the office during the above office hours or leave them in the mailbox right at the entrance of the office.**

**Fr. Charles will always be at the rectory for emergencies.**

**Fr. Charles will continue to celebrate Masses without congregation for the intentions scheduled.**

**Fr. Charles also encourages all parents to continue teaching the Faith to their children at home.**

**This is a time we all need to earnestly turn to our loving God for mercy and healing. Let us remember one another in our prayers and pray for healing for the world and our beloved country.**

My Blessing to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Charles". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.