



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

Office of the Bishop

June 17, 2021

It has been about two months since I last updated directives for our worship. As more of the population is able to receive the vaccine and are encouraged to do so, I ask that we remain vigilant in exercising precaution and concern. Patience and understanding must be a priority for all of us. The italics indicate four updates to the previous directives.

As a reminder:

Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with the virus within seven days should remain home.

Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue may remain home for safety.

Church Buildings:

--Hand sanitizer should continue to be available at all church entrances. All pews are now open. Parishioners are to keep safe and respectful distance as much as possible (staggered seating is encouraged).

--*Holy Water fonts may be filled, according to the discretion of the local Pastor. If the Holy Water fonts are used, they should be cleansed after the Sunday Masses.*

--Proper sanitizing of the Church should be maintained.

Distribution of the Eucharist:

--Those distributing the Holy Eucharist must properly sanitize their hands.

--*The local Pastor has the discretion to either encourage or require ministers of Holy Communion to wear face covering during the distribution of communion.*

--Distribution of the Precious Blood is still suspended.

Parishioner's Interaction during Mass:

--Wearing a face covering is encouraged *if it is not possible to keep a safe distance in seating.*

--*The shaking of hands during the sign of peace remains suspended. Other forms of exchange of peace may be offered according to the discretion of the local Pastor.*

Thank you for the cooperation and concern you have shared throughout this pandemic experience for our people entrusted to your priestly ministry. As we continue to journey forward, we are all mindful of those who have suffered during this past year – and those who are grieving personal loss due to COVID-19.

Ite ad Ioseph! Let us go to St. Joseph during this special year for his powerful, fatherly love and intercession for the Church. May the fidelity he exemplifies continue to inspire each of us in our priestly ministry and care for souls.