

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE May 4, 2021
TO Priests, Deacons, & Parish Office Staff
FROM Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon
SUBJECT Stop the Spike - Expanded Restrictions Effective Wednesday, May 5, 2021

The following are expanded restrictions that affect faith gatherings and outdoor social gatherings announced by Premier Jason Kenney which will take effect on **Wednesday, May 5, 2021**. These restrictions will be in place for at least three (3) weeks and may be extended by the government if deemed necessary.

- Faith services are limited to 15 in-person attendees.
- 10-people maximum for funerals, including participants and guests.
- All outdoor social gatherings must be limited to no more than 5 people and a maximum of 2 household cohorts.

The Diocese of Calgary did not receive advance notice from the government. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide immediate guidance based on the limited information we have received.

To promote uniformity, unity, and to avoid confusion, these restrictions will be in effect in all of the parishes of the Diocese of Calgary regardless of regions and number of cases in regions.

Volunteers need to be reduced to 1-2 volunteer(s) per Mass. The most important position at this time is the Point-of-Entry person who will manage the church door and contact tracing. Attendees should be encouraged to assist in the disinfecting/sanitizing of the pews and door handles.

More liturgical guidelines are forthcoming.

Weekday and Sunday Mass

- In-person attendees limited to 15 people.
- At this time, the interpretation is that the priest is not to be counted as one of the 15. Everyone else is included in the 15.
- Concelebration is temporarily not allowed.
- The Diocese advises that we do not provide any music and/or cantoring at any of the Masses to allow for more of the parishioners to be able to attend.

- The difficulty will be in determining who of those registered will be considered the 15 attendees. The most fair method may be the “first come, first serve” method at least for these first few days until parishes have more time to devise a fair and just method.
- The parish may also consider encouraging parishioners to only attend one Mass in the next three weeks to give others the chance to attend Mass in person.
- The parishes are encouraged to livestream Masses for the sake of those who are not able to attend Mass in person.

Funeral Mass

- 10-people maximum for funerals, including participants and guests.
- The Diocese of Calgary interprets this to mean that the priest and funeral directors are not counted as participants and guests.
- Concelebration is temporarily not allowed.
- Limit to 1 musician and 1 cantor.
- It is advised that parishes contact the funeral director for assistance in informing the family of these changes for the upcoming funeral Masses this week and to manage attendance.
- It is also advised that one of the funeral directors serve as the Point-of-Entry person to manage the door and contact tracing.
- The parish or the funeral home is encouraged to livestream the funeral Mass for the relatives and friends who will be unable to attend in person.

Weddings and Baptisms

- The Diocese continues to limit the attendees to 10 people and the guidelines currently in place remain in effect.

Confirmation

- Some parishes have scheduled Confirmation Masses for this week. If it becomes logistically impossible to accommodate the changes in such a short span of time, postponement of the celebrations may be the most prudent course of action.