

# MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
*of Calgary*

DATE June 25, 2020  
TO Pastors, Deacons, Parish Staff  
FROM The Office of the Bishop  
SUBJECT Interim Adjustments

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With the implementation of Stage 2 of the Alberta Relaunch Strategy in recent weeks, some interim adjustments to Stage 1 of the *Guidelines on the Reintroduction of the Public Celebration of Mass* have to be made in order to address current realities.

- As parishioners get accustomed to the screening questions at the designated entrance, you may have the assessment questions posted by the door and simply ask them three questions:
  - Do you have any of these symptoms?
  - Did you return from travel outside of Canada?
  - Have you been in close contact with somebody who is confirmed as having COVID-19?
- If masks are being handed out in the parish, the usher with a mask and gloves handles the mask on the ear loop.
- A garbage receptacle or bin should be made available by the designated exit for parishioners who may want to dispose of their masks.
- In the interest of not extending the duration of the Mass, the priest may have the assistance of ministers for the distribution of Communion from either Deacons or from Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
  - The pastor may decide on the number of Communion lines needed to better accommodate the size of the congregation as long as only single-file lines are allowed in each aisle and proper physical distancing is observed.
- The provision of instrumental music may be allowed as long as it does not prolong the length of the Mass or delay parts of the Mass. Instrumental classical or liturgical music from stringed instruments such as piano, cello, violin, and guitar are allowed as a prelude to Mass, to accompany the distribution of Holy Communion and as a postlude.
  - Wind instruments such as flutes, trumpets, etc. are not to be used.
  - The use of pipe or electronic organ is allowed.
- Congregational singing is not allowed. Cantors and soloists at Mass continue to be not allowed at this time.
- Pastors may permit parishioners to bring Holy Communion to their spouses or to parents who live in the same household but who are not able to attend Mass. Parishioners should be encouraged to make the request either before Mass or after the Mass and not during the distribution of Holy Communion.

- Parishes are not allowed to provide Communion services in long-term care facilities at this time. Pastoral visits should be limited to priests when requested for the Sacrament of the Sick to a person seriously ill. Priests should coordinate with the care facilities and must comply with their health and safety protocols.