

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE January 21, 2020
TO All Priests and Parish Staff
FROM Dr. Simone Brosig, Liturgy Consultant/Director
SUBJECT Appropriate time to begin the Easter Vigil 2020

It is recommended that Easter Vigils in the Diocese of Calgary in begin no earlier than **9:30pm** in 2020.

The Liturgical Calendar (*Ordo*) states:

The Easter Vigil Mass is not to be presented or seen as an ordinary Saturday evening Mass. It should begin after dark and be at a different time from the usual Saturday evening Mass hour to show its unique character as the greatest celebration in the Church year (Congregation for Divine Worship, Easter Feasts, nos. 77-80 and 93) [Liturgical Calendar 2009-2010 (Ottawa: CCCB Publications Service, 2009), p. 184, no. 2].

*The entire celebration takes place **at night**. It does not start before nightfall and must be over before daybreak on Sunday. The celebration of Mass alone without the vigil service is forbidden. Even if celebrated before midnight, the vigil Mass is considered as the first Easter Mass of the resurrection of the Lord [Liturgical Calendar 2009-2010 (Ottawa: CCCB Publications Service, 2009), p. 185, no. 3].*

The National Research Council Canada indicates that **nightfall** (Nautical Twilight End)¹ on **April 11, 2020** will be at 21:44 for Calgary, 21:34 p.m. for Lethbridge, 21:27 p.m. for Medicine Hat (times adjusted for daylight savings). It is therefore recommended that Easter Vigils begin no earlier than **9:30pm in the Diocese of Calgary**.

Times are determined by the National Research Council Canada's "Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics" web site: <http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/sunrise/index.html>.

¹ The world of astronomy defines various degrees of darkness. (For example, "civil" [twilight] refers to the degree of darkness at which a court of law acknowledges reduced visibility.) By the consensus of a number of people, "nautical twilight" best matches the meaning of "nightfall" as used in the sacramentary [Roman Missal] for the earliest acceptable time to begin the celebration of the Easter Vigil [National Bulletin on Liturgy, Vol. 35, No. 171 (Winter 2002), p. 249].