



## DIOCÈSE DE HEARST-MOOSONEE DIOCESE

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## COMMUNIQUE

### DIRECTIVES FOR PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO STEM THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 VIRUS

Hearst, March 17, 2020

Dear Priests and Faithful of the Diocese of Hearst-Moosonee,

Following PM Ford latest announcement this morning to stem the spread of COVID-19, I wish to contribute to this common public health effort and act in solidarity with the civil authorities.

Consequently, I am announcing the immediate adoption of the following directives until March 31.

- The faithful are dispensed from the obligation of Sunday Mass.
- Because of the small numbers in our diocese, Masses are to be celebrated during the week.
- Priests will celebrate Masses during the weekends but should encourage the faithful to watch televised Masses or listen to them on the radio.
- The churches remain accessible for personal visits.
- Priests will celebrate funerals but should try to limit to family and close friends.
- I encourage priests to meet with their Pastoral council to find solutions so that the faithful can continue Sunday worship for example by adding a Mass on Sunday if possible.

We pray for those affected by this virus, for the caregivers who dedicate themselves with great generosity and for civil leaders making decisions during this crisis.

Truly yours in Christ,

+ Robert Bourgon  
Bishop of Hearst-Moosonee