



**Office of the Bishop**

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## New Update – COVID19

16 March 2020

Dear Pastors, Parish Staff and Parishioners,

Greetings in the Lord! Following the lead of our government and health authorities, who have limited public gatherings to only 50 people, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is suspended until further notice. May I remind you of the televised Sunday Mass, which is broadcast on *Salt+Light TV* and streamed on the Internet at [saltandlighttv.org](http://saltandlighttv.org) at 8:00 a.m., 12:05 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. PT each Sunday or the Sunday Mass from Toronto <https://dailytvmass.com/daily-tv-mass/>.

Our churches will still remain open for Mass (limited to no more than 50 people) and prayer. Please continue to adhere to the directions issued by our public health authorities and our governments to prevent the spread of the corona virus.

In addition, communal Reconciliation Services are to be postponed. If anyone needs confession during this time, they should call their parish to arrange for it. Although it may sound unusual, may I recommend that if someone wants confession, celebrate it outdoors, while a person stays in their car, and the priest stands beside the car. Only open the car window as much as is necessary for the priest to hear your confession.

Daily updates from our health authorities continue to be available at <http://www.bccdc.ca/>. Please check our website <https://www.nelsondiocese.org/> for ongoing information.

Thank you again for your diligence and cooperation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✘ Gregory J Bittman  
Bishop of Nelson