



IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

In response to the growing concern about the spread of COVID-19, also known as “novel coronavirus”, I am establishing a number of temporary restrictions to liturgical practices across the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan. While we know that the risk of contamination is presently low in Alberta, the infection rate around the world is increasing daily. The following practices will hopefully forestall the spread of the virus among our people.

- Personal contact such as the shaking of hands at the sign of Peace at Mass or holding hands at the Our Father is to be discontinued. A bow and spoken word of peace may serve as a replacement.
- Holy Communion is to be distributed under the species of bread alone, only given on the hand so that the Communion Minister does not touch the face of communicants.
- Communion of the Precious Blood is discontinued.
- All ordinary and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are to clean their hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitizer, before and after distributing Communion.
- Where visits to the sick for sacramental and/or pastoral care are made, good sanitary practices are to be maintained at all times.
- Holy water is to be removed from church fountains.

If this situation changes and further restrictions are needed, I will issue further directives. By the same token, these are only temporary protocols; I will issue a directive when these measures no longer apply.

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan

12 March 2020