



# Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

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## M E M O

**Date:** March 29, 2021  
**To:** Clergy, Parishes, Religious, Parishioners, and Staff  
**From:** Bishop Gary Gordon  
**Re:** COVID-19 Provincial Health Order (*Revised March 29, 2021*)

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### *Indoor Worship Services SUSPENDED*

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The B.C. government announced today that new COVID-19 restrictions have been implemented across the province as cases continue to surge. Premier John Horgan, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix, announced that all **indoor** dine-in service, group fitness, **worship services** and non-essential travel will be banned for three weeks amid rising coronavirus case counts.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

The new restrictions take effect at midnight on Monday, **March 29, 2021 and will be in place until Monday, April 19** (at least). The class variance announced late last week for limited indoor worship services has now been suspended. Indoor in-person religious gatherings and worship services of any size are now prohibited, with the exception of Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals (with no more than 10 people in the church).

Outdoor worship services under the current variance may continue provided the Directives for outdoor religious gatherings are respected. Pastors are under no obligation to have outdoor gatherings.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-variance-outdoor-worship.pdf>

Religious services may continue using remote or virtual attendance options, such as livestreaming and churches may remain open for personal prayer, while maintaining normal protocols. Pastors may continue to respond, upon request, to people in the hospital or at home who are gravely ill.

As we journey through this most Holy Week, may we be united in prayer as we contemplate the central mystery of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May the cross of Christ, the symbol of suffering be a sign of God's universal love for us, and the source of all grace as we look with hope to the resurrection of the Lord at Easter.