

**COMMUNIQUÉ from Bishop Noël Simard  
for Immediate Release  
To the parishes of the Diocese of Valleyfield**

Following the meeting of the **Bishop's Office** held this Monday afternoon, **March 16, 2020**, new directives have been identified to complement what is already requested by the *Institut national de santé publique Québec* and the *Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec*.

**For the pastoral aspect**, it is requested:

- To suspend all catechetical courses as long as the schools are closed.
- To suspend all celebrations: weekday and Sunday Masses, funerals, baptisms, weddings, as requested in the previous communiqué.
- To no longer make home visits, with the exception of the anointing of the sick (end of life), with protection (mask, gloves), and as far as possible, according to the availability of priests. However, humanitarian visits (end of life) in hospitals or palliative care homes remain relevant, as far as possible, according to the availability of priests.
- For the parish leaflet to produce only one leaflet and make it available on the parish website or Facebook page. To present texts for reflection in order to continue our journey towards Easter. Do not put the intentions on it.
- That the Mass intentions recommended by people be postponed.
- The benefit dinners for the Bishop's Works that were to be held this spring are cancelled.

**For the administrative part**, both for the parishes and for the diocesan centre, it is requested:

- To close access to the offices, that services be available only by e-mail and telephone. To prepare the announcements and posters necessary for good communication, and to make sure to include an emergency number on your voice mail message.
- That the team of support staff and pastoral personnel be kept to a minimum, to provide essential services. If necessary, adjustments can be made to schedules. However, it is important, as much as possible, to offer a pastoral welcome, which will require innovations in our ways of doing things: appointments by Skype, capsules on Facebook, sharing of spiritual resources on the parish website, etc.
- People who are or will be placed in voluntary isolation should receive their full salary.
- To cancel all gatherings and meetings that take place at the church or rectory.

These directives will take effect on **Wednesday, March 18 and will be valid until March 31, 2020, inclusively**. These directives are subject to modification or extension, according to requests made by the *Institut national de santé publique Québec* and the *Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec*.



11, rue de l'Église, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Québec) J6T 1J5

---

On April 1st, a new communiqué will be sent to you with the follow-up and the question of Holy Week activities and celebrations.

Once again, I know that these directives will have consequences for the life of our parishes and for all the people involved in this challenge that we must live together. I appeal to your understanding and solidarity.

We carry in a special way all those affected by this pandemic, let us remain united in prayer and hope for better days.

+ Noël Simard, Bishop

Questions and Information: Fr. André Lafleur, vicar general  
Email: [vicaire@diocesevalleyfield.org](mailto:vicaire@diocesevalleyfield.org)