

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 34 – March 25, 2021
INFORMATION
To pastors, pastoral teams and religious communities

Brothers and sisters, as we approach Holy Week and the Feast of the Resurrection, here is some good news to share:

1. As of March 26, the maximum number of participants allowed in our places of worship in the red zone will be 250

- a. Following this morning's announcement of the government's decision, we will be able to welcome **up to a maximum of 250 participants in our places of worship** (counting persons of all ages but not including liturgical servers) **as of tomorrow, March 26.**
- b. If the main area (the church) is not large enough to accommodate 250 participants while also complying with required physical distancing of 2 metres, the other separate rooms in the place of worship which have separate access to the street may also be used, in order to accommodate up to a total maximum of 250 people for each single place of worship.

2. Guidelines in effect

As the situation with respect to the spread of the virus remains challenging, it is important to maximize our efforts to ensure that activities in our places of worship are carried out in strict compliance with the health regulations in effect.

- a. It must be remembered that the wearing of **procedure masks** is mandatory in the red zone and that a distance of two metres (and not one-and-a-half metres) must be maintained at all times between people who do not reside together. With regard to procedure masks, each parish or chapel is asked to:
 - As soon as possible, obtain suitable masks and coordinate their distribution to the faithful. Participants may be invited to make a contribution to the purchase cost.
 - Do not refuse a person who arrives without a procedure mask, but encourage them to get one for the next time.
 - Masks must be worn at all times, except when taking Communion.
- b. Choral singing and singing by the congregation are still prohibited. However, it is possible to have one or two people singing, as long as they are positioned at a distance of more than 2 m from the congregation and use a microphone.
- c. REMINDER: please exercise care during the distribution of the palm leaves and Communion to avoid incidents of participants moving about or crossing paths.
- d. The curfew in the red zone will remain in force from 9:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

3. Revised Protocol

Please note that a revised general protocol updated with the latest Public Health guidelines will be sent to you by tomorrow. The specific protocols for Catholic services still apply:

<https://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/pastoral-personnel>

4. EXTRAORDINARY meeting of local 'deconfinement' committees

Please note that an extraordinary meeting of local 'deconfinement' committees will be held on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. To participate in this Zoom meeting:
<https://umontreal.zoom.us/j/95190192338?pwd=UTZScUoyKzJqL1hwYzBIZ05RdWUyQT09>
Meeting ID: 951 9019 2338. Password: 389968

5. Guidelines for other aspects of Church life

Please note that a further communiqué will be issued by the middle of next week answering questions on various aspects of Church life (sacraments of initiation, weddings, funerals, catechetical meetings, other meetings, etc.).

Wishing you a good journey towards Easter!

In Jesus the Risen Saviour,



+ Alain Faubert, AG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal