

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 26 – January 14, 2021
INFORMATION

To pastors, parish pastoral teams and religious communities

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we endure a lockdown that presents difficulties for everyone, we carry on our lives in the Church, strengthened by the coming of the Saviour who, as he promised, is with us at all times. In this communiqué you will find an update to the safety guidelines, as well as various other information.

1. Update of safety guidelines

A. Masses

- We have been informed by the Public Health Department of Quebec that it is possible to videotape a religious celebration in a place of worship in order to broadcast it, provided the least number of liturgical and technical participants necessary are employed for the proper celebration of the Mass and the taping of the broadcast.
- We invite the parishes that will be broadcasting their Masses online to forward links to their services to Communications Services, attention: Laurie Siguidé at: lsiguide@diocesemontreal.org

B. Funerals

- Funerals may be held in places of worship with a maximum of **25 attendees**, these being friends or members of the family, and not including those leading the liturgical celebration.
- For the funeral, more than one room may be used for the celebration by a maximum of 25 participants per room, as long as each room has its own separate street entrance.
- Before the celebration, the family may receive condolences in the church, provided the maximum of 25 visitors and the rules of physical distancing are being complied with. Thus, a family may not divide into several groups of 25 in order to express their condolences one group after another.
- The Diocesan Deconfinement Committee encourages you to share your ideas about how to conduct the expression of condolences safely while following the recommended distancing practices: deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org

C. Visiting persons at the end of life

- As verified with Public Health, an exception to the curfew is expected to be made for persons called upon to visit a person at the end of life or in case of emergency.

D. Religious residences

- Depending on the circumstances of the respective religious communities, their residents' clinical profiles and the types of activities held, kindly refer to the directives applicable to private seniors' residences (RPA) or to CHSLDs located in your area.
- In addition, you should be familiar with the directives (only in French) issued by the DGAPA, which are available via this link: <http://bit.ly/DirectivesCommunautésReligieuses>

E. Fabrique meetings

- Clarification concerning Communiqué 25: Fabrique meetings may be held virtually, and there is no prohibition against the discussion of non-urgent items.

F. Imposition of ashes during the pandemic

- It is still too early to know whether and how we will be able to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass with the Faithful on February 17. Nonetheless, with respect to the rite of the imposition of ashes, we have already received the following directives from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments:
 - Prayer of benediction of the ashes, followed by silently sprinkling the ashes with holy water;
 - Addressing the congregation, the priest says once only the phrase found in the Roman Missal;
 - Following this, the priest washes his hands, puts on his mask to cover nose and mouth, and taking the ashes, without speaking lets some drop on the head of each of the Faithful, instead of marking their foreheads with ashes. This has the advantage of not requiring physical contact with numerous people.

2. Miscellaneous information:

A. Catechesis and celebrations connected with the sacraments of initiation

- Given the difficulties involved in planning continued catechetical instruction and organizing celebrations connected with the sacraments of initiation, we are currently discerning which options will allow the flexibility and the space required to continue with the different levels of catechetical instruction which are already under way. While we are waiting for further clarification, we encourage you to pursue your catechetical activities online and to keep up the good work!

B. Bells

- During this time of confinement, the Archbishop Msgr Lépine encourages all places of worship that have bells to ring them every day at 12 o'clock noon as a gesture of the Church's solidarity with the people of Quebec.

C. Parish staff

- Given the circumstances of confinement, it is up to each Fabrique to make its own provisions with respect to its personnel. However, I would remind you that decisions respecting ministry personnel under the Archbishop's mandate (priests, deacons, APL, RSE) must be made in consultation with him through the Office for Pastoral Personnel: clanglois@diocesemontreal.org or mvalade@diocesemontreal.org
- The Administrative Services to Fabriques Department (ASFD) remains on hand to answer any questions concerning assistance available to enterprises affected by COVID-19: servicesfabriques@diocesemontreal.org

3. Upcoming events:

A. Hybrid ministry

- This microsite features new training courses on hybrid ministry, providing ongoing encouragement to creative pastoral activity with an emphasis on local involvement:
<https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/missionjeunesse-mtl/en/hybrid-pastoral-approach/>

B. Transformational leadership: videoconference series

- **Saturday, January 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:** Discover how your parish could flourish thanks to a team well trained in leadership. Join speaker Brett Powell, Archbishop of Vancouver's delegate for ministries and development in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, for this conference which will be held in English with simultaneous translation in French. For registration or to find out more: https://bit.ly/PVC2021_Leadership
- **Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.:** Archbishop of Gatineau Msgr Paul-André Durocher will give a presentation on the concept of transformational leadership, explaining how to implement it in our parishes. The conference will be held in French with simultaneous translation in English. Link for registration to follow.

C. Week of prayer for Christian unity:

- **Sunday, January 24, 2021, 3:00 p.m.:** In this time of pandemic more than ever, Christian unity is uppermost in our thoughts. The whole world is in need of prayer on the part of all Christians. Therefore, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism calls for a moment of prayer to be held on Zoom or YouTube. In order to participate, kindly register here to get the link: <http://www.oikoumene.ca/events/prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

D. Sunday of the Word of God:

- **Sunday, January 24, 2021:** Pope Francis has appointed this date for Sunday of the Word of God. Discussion kits are available, designed for all parish pastoral agents and individuals, religious communities, discussion groups and families desiring to meditate and understand, to celebrate and bear witness to the mercy of God, illuminated by the Word of God. To access these kits, visit the websites of the Canadian Bible Society (<https://biblesociety.ca/sunday-word-of-god/>)

E. Fratelli tutti:

- **Sunday, January 31, 2021, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.:** Event organized by the Office of Cultural and Ritual Communities and Youth Ministry. In this virtual conference, Father Fabio Baggio, undersecretary of the Vatican's Migrants and Refugees Section, will offer a presentation on Pope Francis's Encyclical on fraternity and social friendship, Fratelli tutti. The conference will be held in English with simultaneous translation in French. Registration: <http://bit.ly/FratelliTutti2021>

In Jesus, our Hope,



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