

DIOCESE OF BATHURST
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



MARCH 2020

COMMUNIQUE

For several weeks now, there has been an epidemic which is affecting more and more countries. Although the coronavirus is not very present in our province, the New Brunswick authorities have just informed us of the presence of a first case in our province.

Concerned about the well-being of our faithful who, for many, are weakened by their age, we have already implemented over the past few years certain hygiene measures during our gatherings in order to avoid any contagion during periods of severe flu .

With the presence of this first case of coronavirus in New Brunswick, we want to strengthen these measures to ensure the protection of our faithful in our churches.

I therefore ask the parish priests to ensure that the following measures are properly implemented in their parish:

- **The priest and the ministers of communion must take care to wash their hands well before giving communion;**
- **For the moment there will be no communion under the two species for the faithful;**
- **Communion will be done in the hand as usual;**

- **During concelebrations, priests who concelebrate are asked to commune by extinction;**
- **The exchange of peace is done by simply turning towards each other and greet each other without physical contact;**
- **The holy water fonts will be temporarily without holy water;**
- **Greetings before and after the celebrations will preferably be without physical contact.**

For young people following catechesis and catechists, we will respect the quarantine directives issued by the government for those returning from a stay abroad. We can give them a private lesson.

Since we are a people of believers, we are sure of being protected and accompanied by Christ himself because he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In Him, we put all our trust because it is for us a source of hope and healing. It is therefore fully reassured and with a soul at peace that we come and must celebrate the Lord in our churches.

This is why I ask that, during this period of epidemic and at each of our Eucharist, that we collectively recite a special prayer (which will be communicated to you) to reaffirm our faith in God and ask him to support, console, protect and heal those who currently need it most in our country and elsewhere in the world.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

+ Daniel Jodoin

Bishop of Diocese of Bathurst

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