



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, Deacons and Lay Pastoral Ministers

From: Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH, VG
Chancellor

Date: 16 April 2021

Re: Additional Restrictions related to the Stay-at-Home Order

Following the announcement by Premier Ford this afternoon outlining further restrictions attached to the Stay-at-Home Order effective on Monday, April 19, 2021, please note the following norms for all Parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton.

1. Masses and other liturgical celebrations scheduled for Saturday, April 17th and Sunday, April 18th are to take place in Parishes provided in the 15% capacity limit and all other Covid-19 protocols are observed.
2. Beginning on Monday, April 19, 2021 all churches in the Diocese of Hamilton are closed until further notice, with the exception only of the following:
 - a) Weddings with a total of 10 people (including the priest/deacon);
 - b) Individual Baptisms with a total of 10 people (including the priest/deacon).
To the extent possible Baptisms should be postponed until the church is reopened.
3. Funerals are permitted in the church with a total of ten people (including the priest), but are strongly discouraged for the health and safety of the priest and the mourners; It is recommended that only the Rite of Christian Burial at the cemetery take place in accord with the requirements of the Provincial Order and the Ontario Bereavement Authority.
4. Confirmations scheduled for the month of May will likely need to be postponed; further information will be forthcoming as we approach the end of the Stay-at-Home Order.

5. Priests are encouraged to celebrate Mass daily without the presence of the assembly, but for their intentions.
6. Where livestreaming of Mass is being done, this may continue provided that the number of liturgical ministers and technical assistants does not exceed 10 people.

A further memo from Mr. Jim Long will be forwarded to you concerning parish offices and staffing during the Stay-at-Home Order.