



# Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC V8X 2A1 – Tel: (250) 479-1331 – Fax: (250) 479-5423 – Web: rcdvictoria.org

## MEMO

**Date:** December 7, 2021  
**To:** Clergy, Parishes, Religious, and Staff  
**From:** Bishop Gary Gordon  
**Re:** New directives for maximum capacity and mask wearing during worship services

---

As we move into a time of more frequent worship services, and an increased seasonal risk of COVID-19 transmission, the BC government has released updated Public Health Orders on gatherings and events, and face coverings:

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-face-coverings.pdf>

In accordance with these Orders, please find attached updated versions of our *General and Liturgical Directives* and our *Music Ministry COVID-19 Prevention Plan*. The key changes are summarized here:

- Attendance at worship services is limited to 50% of the seated capacity of the space used for the service.
- It is highly recommended that parishes encourage physical distancing by blocking off pews, adding distancing markers to the aisles used during the Communion procession, posting reminders in the lobby, and other similar methods.
- Masks must be worn by all people aged 5 and older at all times while in church buildings, including choir members while singing. There are specific situations in which masks are not required, which are described in the Directives.
- Parishes must post signage at the entrances to all church buildings notifying that face coverings are required to be worn.

The *General and Liturgical Directives* and the *Music Ministry COVID-19 Prevention Plan* are also available on the Diocesan website at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/responsetocovid19-0>.

I thank you once again for your patience and understanding as we journey together through this season of Advent.