



BISHOP of LISMORE

— GREGORY HOMEMING OCD —

MEMORANDUM

To: Parish Offices

Subject: Coronavirus Update – Decrees Regarding Mass Closure

Date: 19 March 2020

As you know, the Commonwealth Government has today, banned all indoor gatherings of 100 or more people. As a consequence, I am obliged to make the following Decrees:

1. Sunday Mass - From and including this weekend there will be no Sunday Masses in the Diocese and the Sunday obligation for our Faithful is suspended;
2. Confirmation, First Communion and First Reconciliation - will be postponed until further notice;
3. Reconciliation - There will be no Second Rite of Reconciliation until further notice; you may, however use the First Rite but must ensure there is the appropriate distance and if possible, there be a screen between the priest and the penitent;
4. Funerals - Since we have no control over the number attending funerals, there will be no funeral liturgies in church. Prayers may be said at the place of burial;
5. Weddings - You should ensure that no more than 100 people, including yourself, attend at weddings. In the present circumstances, I would encourage wedding services in preference to a Nuptial Mass;
6. Easter - There will be no public Easter Liturgies;
7. Chrism Mass - will not be public;
8. Churches may remain open for the Faithful to come and pray.

Let us continue to pray for the protection of our people and the end of this virus.