



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 138
Good Friday, April 2, 2021

WITH THE NEWS OF AN “EMERGENCY BRAKE” SHUTDOWN in our province, we are facing new capacity limits in our churches of 15%, beginning on Saturday. It is disappointing to have to contend with this at Easter time, and yet we know that the public health situation is a precarious one right now. Good Friday services will proceed today with the 30% limit still in place. Things will be a little more challenging on Easter Sunday, especially for those parishes that had reservations in place. There will have to be some quick shifting and adapting, so let us all strive to be charitable and understanding in the face of this. Check with your local parish to learn about Mass times and how they are managing this new situation. Above all, let this not dampen our Easter joy at the resurrection of the Lord!

THE DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS remains in place, from the time I first decreed it at the start of the pandemic. For those with compromised health, this might be the Easter to join in the Church’s prayer through one of the many television or Internet options that are available. We will be livestreaming the Good Friday Liturgy from our Cathedral at 3:00 p.m. today. The Easter Vigil will be livestreamed on Holy Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and the Mass for Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m.: they will be available for viewing on our Diocesan YouTube channel afterwards. Additionally, Cogeco Your TV has a broadcast of an Easter Mass from St. Martin Parish in Ennismore on Sunday. Check your local listings for the time of the broadcast.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISM MASS went beautifully on Monday of this week. Participation for the clergy was optional this year, but we still welcomed many of our priests and deacons for a scaled-down but very reverent liturgy. The sacred oils have been blessed for use in the Diocese in the coming year, a testament to the fact that the life of the Church is ongoing! Although we did not open the Mass to the public, we livestreamed it and I was delighted to see the great number of views it received - and the numbers are still ticking up. My sincere thanks to all those who helped us to plan, celebrate and broadcast this year’s Chrism Mass.

THE EASTER EDITION OF “THE CATHOLIC HERALD” has been published and can be viewed online. There are many fine articles, featuring the Year of St. Joseph, a look-back at Christmas, a report on Campus Ministry, to name but a few. Sincere thanks to our editor, Father Ray Rick, who had the task of putting it all together at a very busy time.

I WISH YOU MANY BLESSINGS FOR THIS EASTER SUNDAY, dear friends, with prayers that the joy of the Risen Lord will be with you throughout the Easter season.

Fraternally, + Daniel