



STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 (Coronavirus) UPDATE #3

March 24, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In order to assist in limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Premier of Ontario invoked further measures to restrict public activity yesterday. These measures take effect on Tuesday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m. and continue in effect until April 7, 2020.

Accordingly, all the churches and chapels in the Diocese shall be closed.

Funeral Masses may be celebrated in the parish church but attendance must not exceed the government mandated limit in force at the time of the funeral; all other celebrations are suspended until April 7, 2020.

As of 11:59 p.m. on March 24th, parish offices and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre will be closed to the staff, volunteers, and the public.

I encourage the faithful to pray, stay at home, wash their hands, observe social distancing, and maintain contact with each other through the various means afforded by technology. There are many resources available online and a good place to access them is through the website for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough.

Priests of the Diocese will continue to celebrate Mass privately each day for the intentions of the parishioners and the needs of the Church and the world.

Let us pray for all those who are impacted by illness, for their families, care-givers and especially for those who work in the field of health care and medical research.

Yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough

**POPE FRANCIS OFFERS A PRAYER TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FOR PROTECTION FROM COVID-19**

"O Mary, you shine continuously along our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross was near to the pain of Jesus, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us, He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."