



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

Office of the Bishop

March 31, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Diocese of Victoria will continue to encourage social distancing by suspending Masses with a congregation and other gatherings through April 30, as recommended by government and health officials. In this challenging time, we are called to live our spiritual communion with proper social distancing.

Though we won't be able to gather on Holy Week, I encourage you to continue to participate in services through Internet communication. The following will be streamed live:

- Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 7, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.
- Holy Thursday Mass at 6:30 p.m. April 9 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.
- Good Friday at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
- Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- Easter Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

The Masses at OLV will be available on the website www.olvcathedral.org. Easter Sunday Mass also will be broadcast on KAVU-TV as are all Masses at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Good Friday's service will be a streamed live on Our Lady of Sorrows' Facebook page. Parishes throughout the diocese have initiated online Masses on Facebook, YouTube or their own websites, so I encourage parishioners to check with their churches about availability of local services online.

Remember that Spiritual Communion can be made in your home at any time and many new resources have become available to keep us connected in this difficult time. Especially powerful for us are the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

In Psalm 34, we are reminded that the Lord is close to the broken-hearted. In this time of concern, anxiety and fear, we know God's mercy and love are close to us. Going into the celebration of the great Holy Week, we know God has taken upon himself all of our sickness and guilt and death itself. Jesus Christ, true God and true man, loved us to the end. The mercy that flowed from His wounded heart, he continues to pour out to the world.

We look to God for *healing* and *hope* while we do all we can to help end the COVID-19 crisis.

Let's keep each other in prayer.

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill
Bishop of Victoria in Texas

1505 E. Mesquite Lane | P.O. Box 4070 | Victoria, Texas 77903
Phone: (361) 573-0828 | Fax: (361) 573-5725

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