

March 13, 2020

To the Parishioners of Christ the King University Parish:

The World Health Organization has declared the situation regarding the COVID-19 virus a pandemic and the situation is changing by the moment. According to the Middlesex London Health Unit, the risk in London remains low, as there are currently no known cases of the virus in this region, but it is important that we as a community remain both vigilant and calm as we work with one another to do what we can to contain the infection.

Given that Western University, King's University College, and the other affiliate colleges are cancelling all discretionary gatherings, that Revera Retirement Residence has placed restrictions on entry into the facility, and that there are some in our parish community who are particularly vulnerable, we have decided to take the following preventative measures:

1. We will be suspending Sunday Masses and common meals for the next two Sundays (March 15 and 22). After that, we will evaluate from there.
2. Our outreach program at the Hospitality Centre will continue to run as scheduled on Saturday, March 14, but with a smaller crew handing out sandwiches, juice and baked goods outside of the building between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Those who will be assisting with this task have already been contacted. Food donations can still be dropped off at our office in Wemple 139 until 4:30 p.m. today (Friday, March 13) or on Saturday at the Hospitality Centre between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. at 707 Dundas Street. Please enter through the back door. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important ministry.
3. We will be cancelling the following programs and liturgies for the next two weeks: 'The Bigger Picture' Movie Nights, Bible Study Group, Prayer with the Songs of Taizé, Parents and Babies Group, children and family programming, and Development and Peace Group. We will continue to evaluate after this two-week period.
4. We will be postponing the following events to a future date: Veritas lecture with Shane Claiborne on March 19 and King's University College Chamber Choir concert on March 28.

5. We will continue Daily Mass/Midday Prayer at the College until further notice. Please check the liturgy schedule on our website. In doing so we are taking the following precautions:
- We will discontinue the distribution of Holy Communion from the Cup,
 - Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand and not on the tongue, and
 - Another gesture that does not involve physical contact (such as a bow) to be substituted for the present forms of the Sign of Peace.

Please know that these preventive measures are not being taken out of fear, but rather out of our deep concern for those of our sisters and brothers who are at greater risk: those with compromised immune systems, the elderly, and those with underlying conditions.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed should there be any changes. For those who have registered their emails with us, we will provide updates via email. Please check our website at www.kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry and click on the link to our Updates - COVID-19 page, or follow our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) for any updates.

Let us continue to care for one another and ourselves as we pray for all those impacted worldwide by COVID-19.

The Pastoral Team
Christ the King University Parish
Office of Campus Ministry