THE PUBLIC HEALTH [2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)] (NO. 11) Regulations, 2021.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, Ch. 12.No. 4 REGULATIONS

Legal Notice No. #124

Effective May 1st to May 23rd, 2021

"(9) A religious or ecclesiastical organisation or any other religious organisation shall not be open for the conduct of religious activities and services except that they may conduct funeral services and wedding services where the gathering of persons at any place used for that purpose does not exceed ten persons."

"(10) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (9) a religious or ecclesiastical organisation or any other religious organisation may conduct religious meetings or services-

- a. By electronic means; or
- b. For the purposes of recording or live streaming same,

Where the gathering of persons at any place used for that purpose does not exceed five persons."

During this period of restriction, places of worship may be used for the conduct of funerals, weddings and live-streamed religious services only. The total number of persons at funerals and weddings must not exceed ten (10). The total number allowed at live-streamed religious services is five (5). The foregoing numbers are inclusive of the celebrant, ministers e.g. hospitality, eucharistic as well as choir members, mourners and camera operators.

All attendees must observe the standard COVID-19 mitigation efforts:

- Handwashing or hand sanitising upon entry
- Temperature check to ensure <37.5C
- Written documentation of name and contact telephone.
- Secure nose and mouth covering with a face mask.
- Maintaining a safe, physical distance of 6ft from each person not from his/her household

To facilitate routine worship i.e. Holy Mass or a larger viewing audience for a funeral or wedding, it is legally permitted that the service be broadcast live or recorded for later publication. Please note that the person(s) assisting with recording or live-streaming are included within the number of persons allowed to attend. That is, no more than ten (10) persons are to be physically present for funerals/cremations or weddings and no more than

five (5) persons should be present for a live-streamed or recorded Mass or meeting. e.g. celebrant, cantor, musician, camera-person and technician.

Though not given specific mention, we suggest the following as a guideline:

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Must be conducted in person by private arrangement or appointment with the priest.

Baptism: Reschedule until the restrictions are lifted. Emergency Baptisms due to severe illness or life-threatening circumstances are allowed at a suitable venue, keeping to a limit of five persons i.e. celebrant, parent(s), god-parent(s), baptismal candidate.

Confirmations: Temporarily postpone until further notice.

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