



May 6, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Easter blessings to you and your families! Christ is Risen!

The Easter season is a season of hope grounded in the resurrection of Our Lord. The limitations that we faced on Easter Sunday, due to the pandemic, have not changed, in any way, Christ's victory over death and the promise it brings to each of us.

At the same time, I am aware of our desire to gather and pray as a community. We remain hopeful that the present restrictions will be lifted, gradually, in the near future. It is important for all of us to understand that things will not, immediately, go back to the way they used to be.

Diocesan directives for our parish and diocesan activities will continue to abide to the guidelines of the health experts of the county and our state officials. The diocesan directives will reflect the collaborative wisdom of representatives from the presbyterate and the California Catholic Conference of Bishops.

Also, I am very mindful of the collective yearning to return to "normalcy" in regard to our sacramental and parish life. All the while, I am committed to doing so in a prudent and charitable way, mindful of the "common good" and well-being of all, especially the most vulnerable.

Specifics of when public Mass and the Sacraments will resume, and how they will be celebrated, are being presently examined. We will be communicating these changes in more detail as time approaches. At the same time, we must keep in mind the following:

- Attendance may be limited at any given Mass or liturgical service.
- A general dispensation from Sunday obligation may continue for all (especially for those in the most vulnerable groups, as with the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, etc.).
- Social distancing and the use of face covering may be necessary.
- Liturgical changes will continue (e.g., no exchange of the Sign of Peace, omission of the cup at Holy Communion, and only Communion in the hand).

These changes will continue to evolve over time.

We will keep you informed. Please know we are sincerely thankful for your patience and understanding as we get ready for this next phase. Your well-being, and that of your families, continue to be a priority. You remain in my daily prayers. Easter blessings to all!

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta