

**Our Lady of Sorrows Parish
555 Slocan St.
Vancouver, BC V5K 3X5**

April 27, 2021

To whom it may concern:

We are living in uncertain times where it is very difficult to plan even the near future. We leave the future in God's hands and trust in His plan.

In normal times, we would be setting dates and planning for the celebration of the sacraments of first Eucharist and Confirmation. With the restrictions that are in place and that will continue for some time, we are not able to celebrate these sacraments in the dignified way that they merit.

The office of the Archbishop has already communicated that all Confirmations that His Grace was to celebrate have been cancelled. "In light of the extension of the restrictions on indoor worship until May 25, the Archbishop believes it is prudent to postpone all Confirmations that were booked for him or his delegate to celebrate during this period."

I want to be hopeful but it does not seem that the restriction for indoor worship will change after the end of May. If you remember last year, we were able to celebrate a number of First Communion and Confirmation masses allowing family members to participate. This was possible because 50 people could gather in church.

I asked the Archbishop about drive in masses for First Eucharist and Confirmation but he was not in favor. He said that it would take away from the dignity of the sacraments.

In terms of outdoor masses with 50 people, I believe that it would be so very difficult to keep the appropriate distancing and we never know about the weather.

Keeping all of this in mind, I have taken the decision to postpone the celebration of these sacraments, First Eucharist and Confirmation, to the fall when there is a greater chance that we could gather as a community.

This decision applies to the candidates both in the school and in PREP. If there are any changes to the restrictions after May 24, I will reconsider my decision.

Sincerely,

Rev. Richard Zanotti, CS
Pastor