



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 1, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue the gradual resumption of the sacraments, we must do so with the safety of the faithful and our priests foremost in mind. I have issued guidelines to assist parishes in planning the resumption of the Sacrament of Confession.

Please make note that the general absolution has been extended until June 14, the feast of Corpus Christi. While those who attend daily Mass will not receive the general absolution after June 1, it will still be available for those who are unable to attend weekend Masses. Private confessions may resume on June 1 at the discretion of your pastor.

Confession will still look different in the foreseeable future. Parishes have been advised to move penance into the body of the church or to a similar large area. There should be six feet of space between you and the priest, and the option is always available to celebrate the sacrament anonymously.

Please prepare confessions at home and keep it brief. Given these extraordinary times, there may only be a few minutes to have confessions heard. If you need to speak with a priest for counseling on a particular issue in your life, please make an appointment at a different time outside of the confession setting.

People will be asked to leave the confessional space immediately after absolution, and any penance may be done at home or at a safe distance in another portion of your church. All of this will be at your pastor's discretion.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new ways of ensuring the faithful receive the sacraments. My prayers are with you all.

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston