



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

5825 SHELBY OAKS DRIVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38134 901-373-1200

2 April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many years, the Church has required that all Catholics confess their mortal sins once a year and receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season. This is often referred to as the "Easter Duty."

Since the current pandemic has disrupted our ability to administer Holy Communion on a regular basis, I want everyone to have peace of conscience regarding this norm. I, therefore, dispense all laity and religious in the Diocese from the obligation of receiving Holy Communion during the Easter season for this year.

Let us continue to ask the good Lord for an end to this devastating novel coronavirus. And, as we near Holy Week and the heart of our faith, the Passion of the Lord and His Victory over sin and death, may we be united as missionary disciples, to live out in all of west Tennessee His Golden Rule (Matthew 7.12).

Please be assured of my prayers for you as we strive to keep our faith alive while keeping our neighbors safe.

In the light and love of the Lord,

Most Rev. David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee



Given at the Chancery on March 31, 2020

Very Rev. James Clark, J.C.L., J.V.
Chancellor

I will give you a new heart Ezekiel 36:26