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Hello Everyone,

Greetings to you all. I hope you are going along okay in the midst of the coronavirus restrictions.

In March this year, in the early days of the restrictions, I announced that we would be postponing the Chrism Mass (Mass of the Oils) for six months (till September 21). I was hoping that, by then, restrictions would be lifted enough to celebrate the Chrism Mass in our customary way, with a large gathering of people from all around the diocese. I have been looking forward to this annual celebration, which includes a renewal of commitment to all the varied ministries that serve our diocesan community. Unfortunately, it seems likely that there will be significant restrictions for some time yet.

So, after consulting our Diocesan Liturgical Commission, I have decided that we will not celebrate the Chrism Mass this year.

It is sad that we will not be able to gather for the Chrism Mass as we usually do. However, medical advice indicates that the restrictions on gatherings are necessary for the health of the community. I pray that all the steps we are taking in response to the pandemic will be effective in reducing the impact of the virus and that we will be able to come together again soon to give thanks to God. I look forward to celebrating the Chrism Mass again on the Monday of Holy Week next year.

Christ, the Anointed One, promised to be with us always. May we know his presence day by day.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul