



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

DECREE

For the Closing of Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church in Sechelt, British Columbia

At the request of the shíshálh Nation Council, and upon the advice of members of the Archdiocesan Finance Council, and having consulted with the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Vancouver on April 23, 2020, I, J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver, hereby decree that Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church located in Sechelt, B.C., is to be canonically closed and no longer used for divine worship effective April 25, 2020, in accordance with canon 1222, §2.

The reasons which motivate this action are the following:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church was built by the Catholic faithful belonging to the shíshálh Nation, and it has served the First Nations Catholic faithful in Sechelt, B.C., since its construction;
- Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church and the land on which it was built are the property of the shíshálh Nation, and has been maintained and financially supported by the shíshálh Nation since its inception;
- Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church was never canonically consecrated;
- Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church has not had a priest in residence for many years because of the declining number of Catholic faithful who attend this church, and because of the lack of financial resources to maintain the building;
- Pursuant to due diligence conducted by the shíshálh Nation Council, the shíshálh Nation Finance Committee and members of the Catholic faithful of the shíshálh Nation, an overwhelming majority of members of the shíshálh Nation are supportive of closing Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church.

In light of these motivations for the closure of Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church, and particularly the proximity of other churches in Sechelt and Gibsons, B.C., I have determined, after careful consideration, that the good of souls would not thus be harmed.

Therefore, I hereby decree that as of April 25, 2020:

1. Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church, in Sechelt, B.C, will no longer be a sacred place and, by this Decree, will lose its blessing (cf. canon 1212);
2. Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church may no longer be utilized in any way for divine worship (cf. canon 1214);
3. Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church will be relegated permanently to some secular but not unbecoming purpose (cf. canon 1222 §1);
4. All sacred objects, vessels, statues, vestments and liturgical books within Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church are to be removed to Holy Family Church, in Sechelt, B.C., with particular attention given to the Altar (cf. canon 1238);
5. The Catholic faithful who previously attended Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church are to be warmly welcomed to Holy Family Church in Sechelt, B.C. or St. Mary's Church in Gibsons, B.C.

This Decree to be published in Holy Family Church in Sechelt, and St. Mary's Church in Gibsons, B.C., and, by suitable means, throughout the Archdiocese of Vancouver, with the understanding that anyone who wishes to have recourse against it must first lodge a petition with me in writing within ten canonical days from the time this Decree was lawfully notified, as provided by canon 1734, §§1-2.

Given at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on the Feast of St. Mark, this 25th day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

Thoi

Reverend Joseph Thoi Le, JCL
Chancellor

