



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

COVID-19 Update from the Archdiocese of Kingston May 31, 2020 Pentecost Sunday

The Archdiocese wishes to provide the following update regarding the eventual re-opening of parishes. Premier Doug Ford has extended the emergency orders until June 9, 2020. Until the lockdown is lifted, there is no way of knowing the exact date when it will be possible to re-open our parishes. With a safe re-opening, certain measures will need to be implemented on the parish level to minimize any further spread of the coronavirus.

The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), along with various priests and others who serve in areas of expertise, is working to prepare a set of guidelines to offer Ontario dioceses a **consistent approach** to the re-opening of the parishes. These guidelines will then be implemented at the diocesan level to provide a safe environment for the faithful.

While there is a certain amount of anxiety around the unknown, the re-opening of the parishes will involve some changes: an emphasis on sanitation, physical distancing, personal assessment of one's health, good hygiene practices, and in some cases, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Work continues on the specifics. No situation is without risk, and these new protocols will be put in place for the care and wellbeing of all parishioners.

This pandemic has involved spiritual sacrifice and patience, and so many are suffering loss and hardships at this time. All of these trials can be disheartening, but the most difficult trial is, the absence of regular Sacramental life in the Churches. Please be consoled knowing that, while public Masses are currently suspended, priests across the Archdiocese celebrate daily Mass and are praying for the intentions of all the faithful.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

Sincerely in Christ,
+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston