



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1 December 2020

**To: Priests, Deacons and Lay Ecclesial Ministers**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to express my gratitude to you, the leadership of our diocese, for the great work you have been doing to ensure that our directives are being followed in our parishes. Through your dedicated efforts, you have demonstrated that we are able to provide safe spaces in our churches for our people. The situation around us is changing quickly. People are confused and, unfortunately, are taking out their anger on our leaders. These are very difficult times, and I know that they are putting a lot of extra stress on you. I want to urge you, then, to be attentive to your self-care and wellbeing, especially during this pandemic.

Across the province, people are acknowledging that our churches are following excellent standards to protect parishioners. We are, however, under heightened public attention at this time. I want to encourage you to continue to be vigilant in your efforts to stop the spread of the virus, as we all should be.

As you know, in the past few weeks, there have been repeated outbreaks of the coronavirus. The provincial government has recently issued new regulations. As a result, the ACBO has consulted with medical and legal advisors and updated *WorshipSafe*, our directives for the dioceses of Ontario. Based on the new government regulations and the revision of *WorshipSafe*, we have had to make some key changes to our diocesan directives. These changes are incorporated in Update #13, which is attached.

Please take time to study Update #13. I would like to highlight here a few of the changes you will find in this update.

- First, face masks are now required by law. We must insist that those not wearing a mask not be allowed in our churches unless they have an exemption for medical reasons or age. In the New Year, people seeking an exemption from wearing a mask for medical reasons must provide evidence from their doctor.
- Second, we can continue to distribute Holy Communion but we must ensure that a mask is worn both by the minister and recipient when they are within two metres of each other and that Communion is received only in the hand.
- Third, over the past months we have gained a better understanding of COVID-19 and can safely modify our practice regarding the cleaning of pews. If the pew is used within an hour of last occupancy, only frequently touched surfaces need to be cleaned. If the pew will not be used within an hour of last occupancy, there is not a need to clean it. I hope this lessened standard for pew cleaning will provide some relief, particularly for volunteers who have served their parishes so diligently over the past months.

Our plan is to draw together all the changes made in our various updates into one document and to have another webinar on the measures to be employed in parish churches and offices as soon as possible. If you have any questions, I ask that you contact your Episcopal Vicar or the Diocesan Centre.

Advent is a time of longing and yearning for the coming of our Saviour. During this holy season, I join with you in prayer. May God bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London



DIOCESE OF  
**LONDON**

*Being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus*

## **PERTH HURON CROSSROADS CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES**

St James Seaforth St Patrick's Dublin St Patrick's Kinkora St Vincent de Paul Mitchell

3933 Perth Road 180 Box 15 Dublin, On N0K 1E0

Dear Friends;

Jesus is the reason for this season. We have now entered into the season of Advent. In this season of hope and joyful expectation we are reminded of the good news of Christmas and God coming to us. This day the Divine became human. As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we remember how God first gave a home to the needy couple by being born in a stable and re-create the stable, I ask that you take part in providing a "roof" for the Holy Child. This Christmas, let us be mindful of those who are in need of our welcome – a family member, a friend, a co-worker, a fellow parishioner. Let us make room in our hearts for forgiveness and love and reach out to those who are asking for them. In addition, Pope Francis keeps reminding us not to forget the poor. Let us extend God's gift of generosity by helping a family in need, visiting the sick and those feeling lonely during this pandemic. Through these simple actions we are able to bring Christ to others this Christmas.

This year Easter and Christmas season have been different. We all experienced and continue to live through this experience of 'lock-down' due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

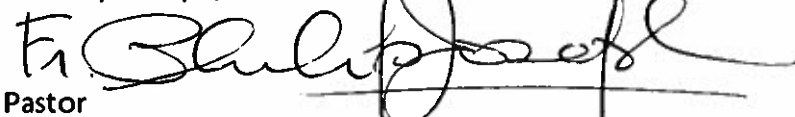
During this time your support to your parish has been amazing in these unprecedented times. I am very impressed by your help in many ways. You were there when your parish needed you, may it be financial support or otherwise. I have seen many volunteers preparing churches before and after Masses making it safe for all our parish family. I remind you that your first obligation is to your family and loved ones but any small amount you can give towards your Family of Parishes, will make a difference. The generousities of your gifts given to the Lord are modeled upon what the Three Kings presented to the newborn King. We are grateful to you for your generosity.

The backbone of our parish are those who volunteer, we have a long list of those dedicated and committed members too numerous to mention. As your pastor, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this parish a beacon of Christ's love and I say; THANK YOU.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is outlined on the back of this letter. We have an extra priest this year, so we are able to celebrate more Christmas Masses than usual. There are 12 Masses scheduled for our Family of Parishes. We want to remind you, because of Covid- 19 our seating capacity is limited. We are trying our best to accommodate everyone so you have an opportunity to celebrate the birth of Lord Jesus, Our Saviour.

Fr. Ronnie, Fr. Saleem, the parish staff and I would like to extend to your family our Christmas Blessings. We will keep you and your family in our prayers, and we ask that you pray for us as well. May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year 2021.

Fr. Philip Joseph, Pastor



Pastor

Feast of Christ the King 2020

## **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2020**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| <b><u>St. James, Seaforth</u></b>           | 5.00 pm |
|   | 7.00 pm |
| <b><u>St. Patrick's, Dublin</u></b>         | 5.00 pm |
|   | 7.00 pm |
| <b><u>St. Vincent de Paul, Mitchell</u></b> | 6.30 pm |
|   | 8.30 pm |
| <b><u>St. Patrick's, Kinkora</u></b>        | 5.00 pm |
|   | 8.30 pm |

### **CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b><u>St. James, Seaforth</u></b>           | 11.00 am |
| <b><u>St. Patrick', Dublin</u></b>          | 11.00 am |
| <b><u>St. Vincent de Paul, Mitchell</u></b> | 9.00 am  |
| <b><u>St. Patrick's, Kinkora</u></b>        | 11.00 am |

### **NEW YEARS DAY JANUARY 1**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b><u>St James, Seaforth</u></b>           | 9:00 am  |
| <b><u>St Vincent de Paul, Mitchell</u></b> | 9:00 am  |
| <b><u>St Patrick's Dublin</u></b>          | 11:00 am |
| <b><u>St Patrick's Kinkora</u></b>         | 11:00 am |