



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

1 BAYARD DRIVE
SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK
CANADA
E2L 3L5

TEL (506) 653-6800
FAX (506) 653-6859

November 26, 2020

Dear priests and lay faithful of the Saint John and Fredericton Regions,

It was announced this afternoon, by the Province of New Brunswick that both Zones 2 and 3 are currently in the Orange Level of the recovery phase. In this level, a maximum of 50 persons can gather at Mass, and 25 persons for other physically distanced gatherings. Please note that masks/face coverings are mandatory for all activities.

With the limited numbers permitted for gatherings, some of the faithful may not be able to attend Mass this weekend, or in the weeks to come. Be assured that the dispensation from the Holy Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still in effect.

For parish priests and staff, travel in and out of these zones is not permitted at this time, except for medical reasons. Please consult the latest mandatory order for further information on regulations during this time.

Pastors, staff, pandemic protocol committees and volunteers, your commitment and added efforts during this trying time is to be commended. Your concern and charity toward others, their health and safety, is a witness of Christ's love for His people.

As faithful, I encourage you to embrace hope in these difficult times. This is a time of disruption to our normal way of living; may we not allow it to be a distraction to our mission and vision as a Church.

This Sunday we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. The Advent Season is a season of hope, preparing us for Christmas and Christ's coming into our world at the end of time. It is in this same hope that we entrust to Him all those who are ill and those on the front lines caring for them.

In Him,

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John