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**Message of Archbishop Philip Tartaglia
to the
Priests of the Archdiocese of Glasgow
for Holy Thursday 2020**

Today we usually gather for the Chrism Mass and we renew our priestly promises. Today the Church commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist and of the Priesthood, mysteries that are so closely connected in our lives as priests.

This year, because of the Covid-19 epidemic, we cannot gather together as a presbyterate for the Chrism Mass, and we cannot gather our communities for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which begins the Sacred Triduum of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The closure of our churches and this physical separation from each other and from our communities has never happened in our experience nor even in post-Reformation times. We are called, nonetheless, to be in communion with one another and with our people. We are finding ways to be with each other in priestly solidarity and to lead our people in prayer, in worship and in faith. Our people know this and they are appreciative.

What you are doing in this crisis is an example of the total dedication to Christ and his Church that must characterise the life of each of us as priests, and is in itself a renewal of our priestly promises. I ask you today to renew these promises in your hearts in a spiritual communion with me and with each other in Christ.

None of us knows how long we will need to endure the present situation of the closure of churches and suspension of public acts of worship and ministry. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that we long for the day when we can open our churches again and welcome our people back into the House of God.

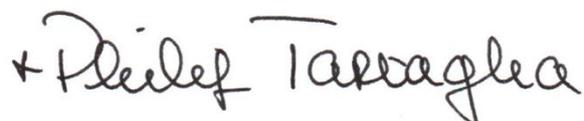
We long for the day when those mysteries of Eucharist and Priesthood, instituted by the Lord on Holy Thursday, are set forth again in the presence of and with the full, active and conscious participation of a worshipping assembly physically present in church offering praise to God. In a word, we long to celebrate Mass again

with our people. We long for the Sacraments. We long to be able to visit the sick again. We long to experience again the joy of personal closeness to our people.

Dear brothers, I thank you from my heart for your lives and service as priests in this Archdiocese. I wish you and our people every grace and blessing of this sacred Triduum and of Easter, even if this year it looks and feels so strange. Remember that it is Christ who in and through you offers the sacred liturgy, and his redemptive mediation overcomes the limitations of time and space.

I reach out with fraternal affection to you all, especially to those of you who are retired or are ill. Let us all support and pray for one another. *Oremus pro invicem.*

Yours devotedly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Tartaglia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

**✠ Philip Tartaglia
Archbishop of Glasgow**