



30 July 2020

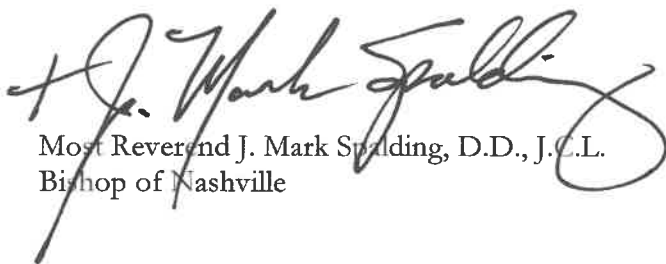
My Dear People of God,

As a community of faith, we continue to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting our nation and our world. We have continued to monitor the situation and have hoped and prayed for progress. While there are signs of hope, there are also ongoing uncertainties and precautions we must take to ensure the health and wellbeing of all. Therefore, I am once again extending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. While we anticipate maintaining this dispensation through the end of the calendar year, we will carefully monitor the situation and may modify the dispensation as circumstances warrant.

While we have successfully resumed in-person Masses at most of our parishes, I encourage those who are vulnerable, sick, or otherwise at risk or concerned about contracting or spreading disease, to refrain from attending Mass. Those who do choose to return to Mass should observe all guidelines concerning social distancing, diligent hygiene, and the use of facial coverings. We will be continuing to provide resources for growth in your life of Faith, and opportunities to watch celebrations of Mass online. Attending Mass on a weekday can also be a good way to participate in public worship in a smaller and more socially distanced setting.

My thoughts and prayers remain with you. Let us continue to pray for the swift conclusion to this time of crisis, and for the health and safety of all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mark Spalding".

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Nashville

DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DECREE

SINCE the worldwide health crisis related to the *COVID-19* pandemic remains ongoing, and civil authorities have continued to encourage all individuals to exercise prudence in returning to activities of public life,

I hereby EXTEND the provisions of my decree, as established on 17 March 2020 and renewed on 31 March and 24 April 2020 and 24 June 2020, for an indefinite period.

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Nashville

Deacon Hans M. Toecker
Chancellor

Given 30 July 2020 at Nashville, Tennessee.

