



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

St. Patrick
17 March 2020

My Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious and Faithful,

The civil authorities in Ontario have announced that the Province is under a *State of Emergency* effective immediately. Accordingly, all Sunday Masses, weekday Masses and public church events will be cancelled until further notice. Pastors and Administrators are to celebrate Sunday Mass privately in keeping with *CIC* canon 534 (*Missa pro populo*).

Public funerals are cancelled. A private funeral service can be arranged with the immediate family and funeral director.

Baptisms may take place in the presence of a priest or deacon, the parents and godparents.

Weddings, if they take place, are to be in the presence of a priest or deacon and two witnesses.

The Chancery Office/Pastoral Centre will be closed to all but emergency services. Parish Offices could follow the same procedure.

It is with great regret that I announce these measures, but they are necessary to minimize loss of life, especially among those most vulnerable to the virus. I would ask that you consult the Archdiocesan/Diocesan website for further developments and clarifications.

Please continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19, and for those who find isolation a source of great hardship.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston
Apostolic Administrator of Pembroke