



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's, NL

Message from the Archbishop

June 26, 2020

RE: Archdiocesan Guidelines for Public Worship at Alert Level 2

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

The province announced on Wednesday that Alert Level 2 comes into effect on Thursday June 25th.

At Alert Level 2: "Places of worship are permitted to resume operations with restrictions". These restrictions include:

- A maximum of 50 people at services,
- The need to observe physical distancing and enhanced sanitation protocols
- Recording contact information in case contact tracing may later be required.

To safely and responsibly open our churches and celebrate public worship under these conditions is going to require a great deal of preparation and supervision. With the above in mind, I bring the following points to your attention:

1. All people of the Archdiocese continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.
2. No Parish is required to open immediately and no timeline is set for the opening of any parish church.
3. Each Parish Priest will need to determine whether and/or when his parish church can open for public worship and private visitation under these conditions.

I know the guidelines and restrictions that will need to be followed for the celebration of public worship during the time of Alert Level 2 will feel strange and uncomfortable. However, they are grounded in the desire and obligation to do everything we can to nurture the spiritual welfare of the Faithful of the Archdiocese while protecting them from the spread of COVID-19. Thanking you for your patience with and respect for the efforts being made by our parish priests and their staffs and volunteers to minister generously and responsibly during this time of pandemic, I remain,

Yours in Christ,
+Peter Hundt