



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

10 February 2021
St. Scholastica

Dear Clergy/Parish and Chancery Staff,

Greetings.

It was indeed welcomed news that Ontario can begin a gradual re-opening of our parishes. Today, the two regions of our diocese, Hastings Prince Edward Health Unit and Frontenac Lennox & Addington Health Unit returned to the "Green Zone" according to the Covid-19 Response Framework. The transition back allows parishes to resume Mass at 30% capacity. The other two regions, Leeds Grenville and Lanark Health Unit and Eastern Ontario Health Unit, will return to the Response Framework on Tuesday, February 16th at 12:01 a.m.

Please find attached a copy of the colour-coded Response Framework, which identifies the restrictions and requirements for each zone. It would be wise to familiarize yourself with the chart again. Also, kindly refer to the Covid-19 Parish Check List when you re-open your church and provide your volunteers with the necessary equipment and a refresher of the protocols.

The following link from the Government of Ontario provides information about the Response Framework:

[COVID-19 response framework: keeping Ontario safe and open | Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-response-framework)

All parishes and missions are permitted to be open for Ash Wednesday at 30% capacity, while observing all pandemic health precautions that have been put in place.

Employees of parishes are encouraged to work from home as much as possible in consultation with their pastor/supervisor. The Chancery staff will return to work on Tuesday, February 16th.

I am deeply grateful to you and your volunteers for all the efforts to ensure the safety of everyone. Further, I commend your ingenuity to celebrate the Eucharist given the restrictions and protocols during the Stay-at-Home Order. This extraordinary time has challenged all of us. We may however, face additional trials as the province works to contain the virus and vaccinate the people of Ontario. I wish to ensure you of my support and appreciation for all your hard work.

May the Lord, our Divine Physician, send His grace and comfort you and renew you in His love. With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston