



St. Mary of the Purification Parish

230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128,
Mount Forest, Ontario
NOG 2LO Canada

June 8, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

Praise the Lord! and a very warm greeting to you.

It is time for us to celebrate as we meet again in the celebration of the Holy Mass. I have missed all of you during this time of Pandemic and forced closing of our churches. I am now looking forward to seeing you all again.

We are pleased to begin the first stage of reopening St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest, St. Thomas the Apostle, Harriston and St. Peter, Ayton as directed by the Diocese of Hamilton.

This will take place beginning at St. Mary's Church on **Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM** and continuing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:00 AM. (Regular Week day Masses from Tuesday to Friday will be at 9.00 AM.)

Sunday Masses will remain as follows

St. Mary of the Purification: Mount Forest

Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Sunday, June 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM

(It will be the same every weekend)

St. Peter's Church: Ayton

Sunday, June 21, 2020 at 11:00 AM (It will be same every Sunday)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church: Harriston

The regular Sunday Vigil Mass at 5.30 PM on Saturdays will begin on **Saturday July 4, 2020** due to the construction on the road in front of the church as well as the Road closure. After Saturday July 4, 2020, it will be same every Saturday at 5.30 PM.



St. Mary of the Purification Parish

230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128,
Mount Forest, Ontario
NOG 2L0 Canada

Please note, that there will be a lot of changes on how we celebrate the Sacraments especially the Holy Mass. I ask you to be patient and understanding of the changes that we will encounter as we begin to celebrate the Holy Mass.

Dispensation for not attending Sunday Mass is still in effect for those of you feeling scared or uncomfortable gathering in large group settings during the reopening of the Churches.

Please keep in mind that weekday Masses are less frequented and may be more amenable to parishioners wanting to limit social gatherings to few people. If you are feeling unwell, we ask that you do not attend Mass.

It is important to note that face masks are to be worn by those in attendance of the Holy Mass, only to be removed when receiving Holy Communion.

Social distancing will be in place in all three churches under the guidance of ushers or signage and pew markings.

The use of washrooms will be restricted unless absolutely necessary.

Hand sanitizers will be in place at the entrance of each church.

Seniors who are unable to attend Mass, but are wanting to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in your home may request a visit from me. Please call (519) 323-1054 ext. 7 to request a personal visit. I will try to return your calls as quick as possible.

The safety of all parishioners is of our utmost concern and so we will strictly adhere to directives of the Province of Ontario and the Diocese of Hamilton.

Please note Sunday bulletins will not be distributed at this time.

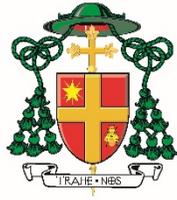
Please see our parish website at www.stmarymountforest.ca for other information.

Please read the attached letter from the Diocese of Hamilton for further information. Thank you and May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

S. Joe Sunmystan

Rev. Fr. Joe S. Selvanayagam, Pastor



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

June 10, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Thank you for your patience during these difficult times, and for your support of your Pastors and Parishes.

The Premier of Ontario recently announced that all churches in the Province of Ontario are permitted to open for prayer and worship, effective June 12, 2020. In order to ensure that our churches are prepared to open for personal prayer and for Mass, according to the requirements of the government and health authorities, churches in the Diocese of Hamilton, who are prepared, will be opened on June 16th for weekday Mass and for prayer, and beginning on Saturday, June 20th for the celebration of Sunday Mass.

For those who are elderly or whose immune system is compromised, and those who are hesitant to return to church at this time, please know that the obligation to participate at Sunday Mass is suspended until further notice.

It is important to remember that the COVID-19 Pandemic is not over, and that everyone must continue to pay attention to the measures being put in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, please note the following requirements for entry into the church:

- Entrance is not permitted to those who have an elevated temperature, or are suffering from cough, sputum production, shortness of breath, undue fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle aching, runny nose, chills involving shakes, loss of sense or taste or smell. If you are sick, you are kindly asked to stay home.
- If you have travelled outside Canada within the past 14 days, you are not to enter the church until you have completed the period of self-isolation.
- You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask upon entering the church.
- Everyone is to use the hand sanitizer provided upon entry to the church.
- Maintain a two-metre (six foot) distance at all times in the church and on church property.
- Only 30% of the seating capacity is permitted by government regulations at this time. Ushers will guide you to the available designated seats.

During the celebration of Mass, you will notice a few changes based on the recommendation of health authorities to ensure everyone's safety as much as possible:

- The entrance procession will be simplified.
- There will be no hymnals in the pews; singing will be led by an instrumentalist and cantor only.
- Only one lector will proclaim the readings before the Gospel, and the petitions.
- There will be no collection and presentation of bread and wine at the usual time. You will be invited to deposit your offering in the basket/receptacle as you leave the church.
- Before Communion, following the prayer (*Lord, I am not worthy...*) the Priest will say once: *The Body of Christ*. All will respond together: *Amen*. Communion will be received in silence.
- You will be directed by the ushers to come to Communion row by row, while maintaining physical distancing. Particular directions will be given before Communion.
- Communion can be received only in the hand at this time. Carefully extend your hands, placing one upon the other to receive the Body of Christ. Communion from the chalice is not permitted.
- Following the dismissal, you will be directed to leave the church, row by row, in order to maintain physical distancing. No printed bulletins will be available.
- You are asked to refrain from socializing with others following Mass.

If you are visiting the church for personal prayer or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, you will be required to observe all the health directives as for Mass.

At this time, the Sacrament of Reconciliation cannot be celebrated in the usual Confessional or Reconciliation Chapel. Another suitable location which provides physical distancing as well as privacy will be designated in your church.

As we welcome this first stage of returning to our Parish churches and resuming our public worship, let us continue to be united in prayer for one another and especially for those who, for whatever reason, are not able to join us at the Table of God's Word and the Table of Christ's Body and Blood.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton