



Date: 15 May 2020

To: The Faithful of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the recent information from the Government of Alberta on *Guidance for Places of Worship*, I am receiving many requests for the return to public Masses and other sacraments. Even before this notice was published, the Alberta bishops began meeting with a task force to discuss how we might plan for the eventual return to normal celebrations of our faith life.

With the best advice from the task force members, we do not see the recent government document as providing the needed practices and precautions that must be in place. So, until further notice from me, in union with the other bishops of our Province, the restrictions that have been in place until now still apply.

I know how painful this is to you. I receive letters, emails and personal appeals begging me to allow wider access to the Sacraments. I myself deeply wish that we could return to some normality in the practices of our faith. But the present moment and the restrictions of the *Guidelines* document indicate to us that further work is needed in this regard. We are being reminded, at the same time as some restrictions are lifted, that the pandemic is not over.

I have indicated this today in greater detail to your parish priests.

Let us continue to keep one another in prayer, and to encourage one and all in the faith, hope and love that are the markers of disciples of Christ.

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