



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers
From: Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH, VG
Chancellor
Date: 26 May 2021
Re: Provincial Roadmap to Reopen

On Thursday, May 20th, Premier Doug Ford announced Ontario's Roadmap to reopening. The road map consists of three steps and approximate time lines were proposed. These are based on vaccination rates and public health indicators, such as hospitalizations, ICU occupancy, new admissions and case rates. At the present time, it is proposed that Step 1 will be introduced the week of June 14th.

Elements of the re-opening Roadmap which have an impact on our churches are as follows:

- Before the implementation of the "Roadmap to Reopen", all current measures for places of worship remain in effect (limit of 10 people both inside and outside). Churches in the Diocese of Hamilton remain closed at this time.
- Step One (proposed to take effect around June 14th and to last for 21 days) limits indoor gatherings at places of worship to the current cap of 10 people. The churches remain closed. During this phase, outdoor religious services are permitted without limits as long as 2 m distancing is maintained. See below for more information on outdoor religious services.
- Step Two (proposed for the first week of July at the earliest) places of worship are permitted 15% capacity.
- Step Three (at least 21 days following the start of Step 2) places of worship are permitted "larger indoor services" but no specific number or percentage is provided at this time.
- Outdoor Masses: With the beginning of Step One (around June 14th) it is permitted to have outdoor religious services. In response to several inquiries and following consultation with the Episcopal Board, His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, grants permission for parishes who wish to celebrate Sunday Masses outdoors under the following conditions:
 - a) The parish has an adequate outdoor sound system;
 - b) The parish has adequate outdoor space;

- c) Provision is provided for parking, including any permission from local authorities for street parking;
- d) Participants are not permitted to remain in cars during the liturgy;
- e) Participants are to be seated at least 2 meters apart as in the church and wearing masks;
- f) The liturgy is celebrated fully as in the church with the necessary ministers;

Please note: Outdoor Masses are not mandatory, but at the discretion of the Pastor, provided the above-mentioned conditions can be met. Parishes are to inform the Chancellor's Office if they decide to celebrate Sunday Mass outdoors during Step One.

Thank you, once again, for all you are doing to provide pastoral care for your parishioners and to keep them safe.