



Our Lady of the Airways Parish

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RETURNING TO THE CHURCH MEMORANDUM

TO: The People of Our Lady of the Airways Parish
FROM: Father Thomas and the Pastoral Team
DATE: March 17th, 2021
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Parish Update

- Changes to Restrictions on Places of Worship in the Grey Zone
- Holy Week Schedule

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*“Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.” - St. Rose of Lima*

As of Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Toronto and Peel was subject to an amendment on certain restrictions. Churches are now permitted a **15 per cent maximum capacity** for sacramental celebrations, which is a significant improvement from the 10 people maximum that had been in place for several months.

#### **Our Church's Re-Opening Mass Times:**

- **Weekday Masses** will resume on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> - **Monday to Friday at 9:00am**
- **Weekend Masses** will resume on the weekend of March 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> with the following schedule:

**Saturday 5:00pm English**

**Sunday 8:00am English 12:00pm English**

**10:00am Italian 2:00pm Tamil**

At this time there will be NO PUBLIC DEVOTIONS before or after any Masses (*e.g., Rosary*)

#### **DISPENSATION FROM OUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION**

Cardinal Collins continues to dispense Catholics from our Sunday obligations. Therefore, if you are not feeling well, have a pre-existing condition, or are considered to be in a high risk category, then we respectfully ask you to continue to experience church in your home through virtual Mass and personal devotions. If you wish to view online/televised Masses, please consult the full list available found at the Archdiocesan website at [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) or you can participate in our parish weekend Masses/homilies on our YouTube channel.

#### **REGARDING MASS DURING A TIME OF PANDEMIC**

**Please Note...** A member of each household is required to **SIGN IN** their family when they arrive at the entrance of the church in order to comply with contact tracing protocols. Parishioners are asked to **BRING THEIR OWN PENS**. Hand-sanitizer will be available at the sign-in stations.

- Complying with social distancing regulation, the seating capacity at Our Lady of the Airways Parish is limited to **56 designated spots** (households), or a **maximum of 150 people** within the church.
- Mass attendance at our parish will be on a **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS**.
- Parishioners will be required to **line up at the front main entrances of the church**
- The church doors will open **30 MINUTES BEFORE DESIGNATED MASS TIMES**.
- Health officials have expressed concern regarding the faithful congregating in or around the church before and after services in large numbers. We ask you **NOT TO CONGREGATE/SOCIALIZE IN THE FOYER OR PARKING LOT** and please **always practice physical distancing** (whether you are inside/outside the church).

## **GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO THE CHURCH**

### **COVID19 PROTOCOLS**

The following physical distancing, sanitizing, and safety protocols have been put in place. Please adhere to these protocols for your good and the good of your neighbour.

- Please take a temperature check before leaving for church. If you have the slightest fever, or are feeling sick, please stay at home.
- Please wear a mask/face covering (*for everyone over the age of three*) and keep it on the entire time you are at the church. A mask will be provided if you need one.
- Please sanitize your hands at the marked sanitizing stations found at the entrance of the church.
- Once you have been directed to your designated pew, you are expected to remain seated until you exit the church.

### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

- Please listen carefully to announcements before the start of Mass. Follow direction as advised.
- Parishioners attending Mass are asked **NOT TO SING** at this time to minimize the potential spread of the virus. Singing provides a significant opportunity for the projection of particles from the mouth.
- There will be **NO OFFERTORY** collection. Please leave donations in the designated basket upon departure as directed.
- We ask that people do not hold hands or shake hands during any portion of the celebration of the Eucharist. At the Sign of Peace, a nod or bow to others is appropriate.
- During this time of pandemic and under the guidance of local medical health officials, the faithful are asked **TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION IN THE HAND** by placing one on top of the other, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to safely place the Body of Christ in one's hand without contact.
- Masks/face coverings should be removed prior to reception of Holy Communion and put back on after consumption.
- Follow direction for communion flow ensuring physical distancing at all times.
- Following Mass, please depart the church so that cleaning may commence.

### **GENERAL**

- If you suddenly feel ill, start coughing or sneezing, please leave the church for the health and safety of others gathered.
- If, within 14 days of attending Mass, you learn that you or someone in your family who attended Mass with you has tested positive for COVID-19, you are asked to: a) contact the Ontario Public Health Authority; and, b) contact the parish office. Your identity will not be revealed to anyone other than the Public Health Authority, and only to ensure that any spread is contained.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WASHROOMS WILL REMAIN CLOSED.** In case of an emergency, please approach an usher or a volunteer.

Weddings, funerals, and baptisms will still take place (with specific restrictions for each celebration). **Confessions will continue to be available by appointment only. Please call the office to set an appointment with a priest.**

### **PARISH OFFICE**

The parish office will remain closed to the public as per the directives of Public Health. We continue to check emails and voicemails on a daily basis.

### **Please Note...**

- If you wish to be added to our pandemic email list in order to receive regular parish updates, please email us your request.

## **LENT AND HOLY WEEK**

### **VIRTUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND REFLECTION**

All are welcome to join us Friday evenings from 7:00pm - 8:00pm during Lent for a virtual (via Zoom Video & Audio Conferencing) gathering of the Stations of the Cross and Reflection with Fr. Thomas.

### **PALM SUNDAY - March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday** (Vigil Mass) 5:00pm English

**Sunday** 8:00am English

10:00am Italian

12:00pm English

2:00pm Tamil

### **HOLY THURSDAY - April 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

### **GOOD FRIDAY - April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

10:00am Italian

12:00pm English

3:00pm English

5:00pm Tamil

**7:00pm Stations of the Cross via "ZOOM"**

### **HOLY SATURDAY - April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Easter Vigil Mass**

8:00pm - English

### **EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am English

10:00am Italian

12:00pm English

2:00pm Tamil

After so many months of being closed, the reopening of our church is no doubt a wonderful blessing for us, especially as we approach the last few weeks of Lent and prepare to celebrate the holy Easter season. **As you return to church, we ask that you faithfully and meticulously follow these protocols. Doing so will ensure both your own safety and the well-being of your neighbours.** Let continue to ask the Lord to protect us as we journey through these difficult and challenging times.

United in faith,



Rev. Thomas Lim  
Pastor



Rev. Canisius Raj  
Associate Pastor



Enza Lamberti  
Pastoral Associate