



Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP'S OFFICE

June 30, 2021

Dear Clergy, religious and faithful of the Diocese of Kamloops,

It is such wonderful news to hear that the BC government, as of July 1st, 2021, will move forward in the restart plan to phase 3 which includes that there are “no capacity limits or restrictions on religious gatherings and worship services” as well as the lifting of the state of emergency in our province. I am very grateful that the faithful of the diocese will be able to return to celebrating Mass in and with community.

It has been a long stretch of hard work, sacrifice, dedication, patience and understanding from all Priests, parish staff, volunteers and parishioners. I am very grateful to you all for your patience, understanding and creative ways of reaching out to fellow parishioners, especially those in need. I am very humbled.

Although many restrictions are being lifted, I ask that all Parishes continue to take precautions. We have all worked diligently to get to where we are today, let us continue to keep the environment around us safe for those entrusted to our care.

Masks will no longer be mandatory; however, they are recommended in public indoor settings for those who are not yet fully vaccinated. Please ensure that fundamental measures of communicable disease prevention are in place, such as having hand sanitizing stations available, the continuation of sanitizing of the churches after each Mass is highly recommended, especially during “flu season”, as well as continuing with some of the current COVID-19 Safety Plan protocols that are in place, such as barriers and directional signage to reduce points of congestion. These will allow for a transitional period as we progress from phase 3 to phase 4 of BC’s restart plan. Let us continue to be patient, understanding and show respect with each other as we transition through these changes as each person is unique and may have a different level of comfort and immunity.

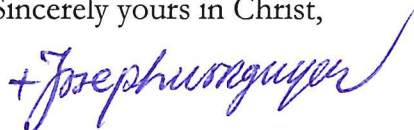
As we transition from phase 3 to phase 4 of BC’s Restart plan, the dispensation from Sunday obligation will be gradually lifted over the summer months so that when the province moves into phase 4 in early September this dispensation will be completely lifted.

Page 1/2

It is very important that if you are feeling ill or having flu-like symptoms, please stay home as to prevent the spread of any illness to others. Let us keep each other safe and healthy.

Tomorrow, as we celebrate Canada day, we entrust our diocese and our country into the protection of St. Joseph, we also pray for the healing for all those who have been affected in so many ways by this pandemic and by the report of findings at the site of the former Kamloops Residential School. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph and St. John Vianney continue to protect us and accompany us through this challenging yet hopeful time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



✠Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops