



April 3, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are living a difficult period in the life of the Church, and in the community as a whole, which calls us to adapt our mission, and remind ourselves of the presence of Christ among us.

We want to assure you that the Archdiocese and all of its parishes continue to bring their support to our community. To reinforce the presence of the Church among the faithful, we continue to grow and adapt the services that pastors and their pastoral teams can provide, each as their financial position will allow.

Rest assured that even though churches are closed, our priests continue to celebrate the Daily Eucharist keeping your intentions always in mind and pray God's Word for those entrusted to their care. Our pastors pray privately every day in hope that you and your loved ones are spared from this pandemic. When permitted by medical protocols, they administer the rite of Anointing of the Sick. They also assure the pastoral care of the parish by offering spiritual and moral guidance, as well as leadership to the Catholic faithful via different social media and teleconferencing platforms.

Only days ago the Governments of Canada and Ontario announced ways to assist our parishes, though not all will benefit from this help. Team work is essential. Pastors, aided by their volunteer finance councils, will be working with Diocesan Administration in the weeks and months ahead to ensure the long-term viability of our parishes.

I encourage you to contact your parish pastor should you require spiritual guidance and support, or if you have any questions regarding the current situation. I am sure they will be pleased to hear from you and assist in any way they can.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus Christ our Lord,

✠ Terrence Prendergast, S.J.  
Archbishop of Ottawa