



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP of CALGARY

May 18, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The great feast of Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the life of the Church through the Apostles, the disciples, and with Mary, the mother of our Lord, who were gathered in the upper room “constantly devoting themselves to prayer” (Acts 1:12-14). This gathering for worship is necessary for our identity as disciples of Christ.

In March of 2020, the Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories issued in their respective dioceses a dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation to provide the faithful the freedom to choose and not be obligated to participate in large liturgical gatherings and thus to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the time of the global pandemic.

Now, at this stage where the necessity for health and safety restrictions has been relaxed, a return to in-person gatherings on Sundays as a worshipping community is necessary for our continued spiritual nourishment and growth. Therefore, the Bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories in their respective dioceses will be lifting the dispensation on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.

While acknowledging the continuing presence of COVID-19 in our midst, the decree restoring the Sunday obligation will continue to provide the exemption for those who are ill, vulnerable and those providing direct care for them, and those who cannot attend Mass because of frailty or old age.

Our sacred duty to worship God on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation orients our personal freedom to the worship and service of God. May the feast of Pentecost inspire us to constantly devote ourselves to prayer especially in the highest form of our worship of God in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

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DECREE

In the name of God.

The Most Reverend William T. McGrattan

Bishop of Calgary

Whereas in March 2020 the Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary dispensed with the obligation to Sunday Mass in light of the coronavirus pandemic for the safety of the faithful and the common good;

Whereas public restrictions have now been lifted for public gatherings, including public worship;

Therefore, in gratitude for the decrease of the danger to public health caused by the coronavirus and for the good of souls, I hereby restore the Sunday obligation for Catholics starting on Saturday, June 4, 2022, the Vigil of Pentecost, in accordance with Canon 1245 of the Code of Canon Law.

As has always been the case, anyone with a "serious reason" or "grave cause" is excused from this obligation. Such reasons include:

- anyone who is sick, symptomatic or recently exposed to the coronavirus;
- anyone with serious health risk factors that requires them to avoid public spaces;
- anyone who cares for someone who is sick;
- anyone who cannot attend Mass, through no fault of their own, because of frailty or old age.

May the trials of these two years lead us to a renewed faith in Christ's real Presence in the Holy Eucharist, a renewal of Sunday as a family day of prayer and rest, and cultivate within our souls a desire that sees our obligation as the greatest privilege of our faith.

Given at Calgary, on this Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

+William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

Rev. Anthony Pudota
Chancellor



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