

**УКРАЇНСЬКА  
КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ  
ПРЕСВЯТОЇ РОДИНИ  
В ЛОНДОНІ**



**UKRAINIAN  
CATHOLIC EPARCHY  
OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
OF LONDON**

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the  
Eparchy of the Holy Family of London

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021 I issued a directive that our parishes would be temporarily suspending public Divine Liturgies in England. This decision was a very difficult one and was based on wide consultation including with medical professionals. I understand that the suspension of public services has been very stressful for all of us, especially for our very dedicated clergy. We have provided daily on-line Divine Liturgy broadcasts as well as daily homilies. Our clergy have continued to pray for our faithful and, where it has been possible, make hospital visits.

I have expressed my intention to review the situation and to continue in consulting with clergy and as many people as possible to ascertain as to when it would be prudent to reinstate the celebration of services publicly in our parishes and mission points.

Having taken the above into account, I am confident that public services should now resume wherever possible. To this end, I am announcing that, as of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021, our churches will be open once again for public worship. Nevertheless, we must continue to follow the COVID-19 safeguarding rules very strictly. If any of our clergy believe that the parish they are serving in is not ready to open just yet, we must respect that decision.

I remind you of the conditions under which we may re-open:

1. The celebration of Divine Liturgy should not last longer than one hour;
2. Funerals may take place with a maximum number of persons in attendance according to government guidelines and should not last longer than one hour;
3. The sprinkling of persons or objects with Holy Water is not allowed;
4. Until further guidance, there can be no home blessings or home visits by clergy;
5. While in our church premises, social distancing must be maintained at all times and strictly adhered to;
6. The wearing of masks in church premises is a compulsory requirement.
7. We are not permitted to have congregational or choir singing, only one person may sing the responses.
8. We must not socialize in our church buildings or outside the church in car parks, etc.

Let us continue to pray to Our Lord that the suffering we are all enduring because of this pandemic will be brought to an end soon. I place you under the protection of the Holy Family, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the holy and righteous St. Joseph the Betrothed.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

*+ Kenneth*

+Kenneth  
Eparchial Bishop

Given on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of February in the Year of Our Lord 2021  
At the Cathedral-Sobor of the Holy Family,  
In the God-blessed city of Westminster, London