

## YOU WERE ASKING by Msgr. P. Stilla

**Q.** In Bishop Colli's recent letter about the cancellation of Masses for March 21/22 and March 28/29 in all the Churches of the Diocese, he states that Catholics are dispensed from the requirement to attend Sunday Mass on these two weekends. What does a 'dispensation' mean and in what circumstances can one be granted?

**A.** When dealing with Church laws, we must remember that:

**n** The law is an important and useful guide which enables the Church to effectively carry out its Mission and to assist God's faithful in their spiritual lives. Therefore, the law is there to assist us;

**n** In the Diocese entrusted to his care, the Bishop has the re-

What is a 'Dispensation'?

A 'dispensation' is simply an exemption from the observance of a Church law. Such dispensations can be granted by the Holy Father, by the Diocesan Bishop or by other Church authorities, for a just cause. The 'just cause' in this case, as Bishop Colli states is, 'to assist in curbing the spread of the Covid-19

virus in North-western Ontario and to safeguard the health of everyone, and especially of the elderly and the most vulnerable in our Diocese.

Still A Holy Day  
Of course, since Sunday always remains a holy day for all of us.

Therefore even with this exemp-

tion, Bishop Colli encourages us on the Sundays that the Eucharist is not celebrated, to watch Mass on television or online and to pray at home by reflecting on the Gospels, or by reciting prayers that deepens our relationship with God.

Let Us Pray for One Another  
Finally, let us all remain calm, continue to pray for each other, for those affected by this virus, and for those working to minimize its impact. Above all, keep in mind that in time, this too will pass!



### Sunday Mass

We are all aware that, in ordinary circumstances, Catholics are obliged to physically participate at Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days

of Obligation. In Canada, these are: Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The obligation stems from the fact that Mass allows us to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist and strengthens our community. We also know that this or other similar obligations are suspended if one is ill or elderly and in cases of moral or physical impossibility. The Church also teaches that obligations like these may be dispensed for a just cause when it is for the spiritual or physical wellbeing of the people.

## ACCESSING SUNDAY MASSES ON LINE AND ON TELEVISION



Since Masses will not be celebrated in our Parishes for the next two weekends, Bishop Colli has encouraged us to watch Mass on television or to access it on line and to pray at home.

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These are a few different available sources for Mass:

~~~ INTERNET ~~~

[www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)

[www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

[www.catholicstv.org](http://www.catholicstv.org)

[www.mass-online.org](http://www.mass-online.org)

~~~ TELEVISION ~~~

On: VisionTV

(Bell Channel 261,  
Shaw Direct Channel 394,  
Tbaytel Channel 675)

On: EWTN

(Shaw Channels  
292, 559 & 285)

On: Faith TV

(Bell Channel 591)

On: Joy-V

(Bell Channel 656)

On: YesTV

(Bell Channel 651)