

Updated – May 18, 2020

Directives for reopening

FROM – Bishop Mitchell Rozanski

I was pleased to learn that the opening of churches will be part of the first phase of the state's reopening measures. In recent days we have asked parishes to begin planning for their reopening, taking into account limited capacity and social distancing, as well as cleaning procedures after every public use of the church.

It is important that our churches must be in full compliance before we resume public Masses. With that in mind I am issuing the following directives.

Parishes will be allowed to resume public Masses this Saturday, May 23 with the first vigil Mass after 4:00pm only if they have provided the Office of the Bishop written assurance that they have met all the state, municipal and diocesan guidelines, and received a response giving permission to resume.

It is not unreasonable that some parishes may require additional time and therefore not open until the following weekend, May 30/31.

The previous diocesan restrictions and state guidelines will continue including;

- Omission of the Sign of Peace
- No communion by the cup
- Communion in the hand only
- Holy Water fonts to remain empty and covered
- Social distancing (6ft minimum) to be abided by at all times
- Masks will be required