

УКРАЇНСЬКА  
КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ  
ПРЕСВЯТОЇ РОДИНИ  
В ЛОНДОНІ



HOLY FAMILY  
UKRAINIAN  
CATHOLIC EPARCHY  
OF LONDON

**PASTORAL LETTER  
FOR THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS OF RUS-UKRAINE**

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

Glory to Jesus Christ!

*Christ-glorifying princes and hierarchs, venerable saints and martyrs, and unwavering confessors of Christian Ukraine through the ages, pray to Christ God, that He may look upon our people with his benevolent gaze, and give it the grace to persevere in faith, and that the souls of worshipping faithful, who honour your holy memory, may be saved. (Festal Troparion)*

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Sunday in which we commemorate the saints of Rus-Ukraine, the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, has become for us a particular occasion for celebration as from the 4th July 2020, with the permission of our government authorities, places of worship will be allowed to open their doors to public services. And so, with great joy I am able to announce that on the day we honour the saintly fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters of Ukraine, our Cathedral in London and a few other parishes in England will begin to celebrate Divine Liturgy.

Already on Sunday 21st June 2020, Holy Family Cathedral parish in London opened its doors for private and individual prayer. For many the blessing of returning to our cathedral after so many months was a very powerful and emotional experience – one of coming home and being home. We celebrated Father's Day with particular gratitude to our Heavenly Father for all His gifts. The following week a few other parishes in our Eparchy opened their doors to facilitate visits from our parishioners, to pray and give thanks to our Lord. I want to thank our clergy and volunteers for the preparations they made and the way they welcomed our faithful back into their spiritual home!

All throughout this time of quarantine our clergy have celebrated Liturgies and have been praying for our faithful. I know that our faithful have joined their voices in prayer these many long weeks of isolation and turned their homes into domestic churches. God has always been with us! We have hungered to receive the Lord in the

sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation/Confession. Thanks be to our Lord that in many of our parishes we will once again be able to receive the Holy Sacraments. Once again, we are also able to begin scheduling baptisms and marriages in our parish churches.

In this new pandemic reality when we come together, we will need to take precautions, and for a while things will not be back to normal. Much work will need to be done to prepare our church facilities and coordinate participation in order to make sure that our faithful can worship safely. I am grateful to our clergy and their parish councils and volunteers who are working so hard and diligently at this task of love. I know that I can count on all of you for your cooperation, respect and mutual support.

In order to provide access to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy to as many faithful as possible many of our parishes, including the cathedral, will be adding extra services to their schedules. However, we realise that some of our parishes will need a few extra weeks to meet all the safe worship requirements, and that some parishioners will be hesitant to attend services due to health, high risk or the desire to shield more vulnerable family members. I am extending the dispensation from the obligation for Sunday attendance at the Divine Liturgy, but ask that if you are not able to go to your parish, that you continue to make time on Sundays to pray at home and, if possible, to join an on-line broadcast of the Divine Liturgy. Furthermore, if you have the possibility to attend a Saturday Liturgy then it will count as your Sunday obligation.

Please consult your local parish priest for more information regarding the new procedures and precautions that are now in place.

For many days we have been like the Psalmist, who longed to return to the temple: "These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival." (Ps 42:4). In that same spirit of joy, let us give praise to God that once again we are able to gather in His House as His children. And let us be inspired by the martyrs and saints of Rus-Ukraine, who bore witness to their deep faith, often in times and circumstances much more difficult than ours.

I continue to place each of 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*  
Eparchial Bishop

Given on the First Day of July in the Year of Our Lord 2020

At the Cathedral-Sobor of the Holy Family,  
In the God-blessed city of Westminster, London