



RESCINDING OF DECREE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VIRUS

When the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, I joined many other Bishops here and around the world in deciding that a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was appropriate. I, as Bishop, had (and have) a duty of care for all. I wanted to do what I could to protect the most vulnerable, in particular those with underlying medical conditions, the aged and the population at large. I still do.

Whilst COVID is still with us, Churches and other places are now open and the community is learning to live with the situation in a different way, mindful that whilst the threat still exists, there are ways to mitigate and live with the risk. All of us must still practice sensible precautions and play our part in this. Personal hygiene and the sanitising of hands are pertinent aspects to monitor going forward.

Given the situation therefore as it is today and compared to what we have been living through over the past years, I have decided to rescind the Decree and dispensation from attending public masses on Sundays and other holy days of obligation which came into effect on 23 March 2020.

In accord with Canon 1247 the faithful of the Diocese of Townsville are obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation.

I request that the rescinding of the Decree and Dispensation be distributed and made available to all in the Diocese, especially Parish Priests, Administrators and their people.

The rescinding of the Decree is effective immediately.

Given at the Catholic Centre of the Diocese of Townsville on Friday, 28 July 2023.

MOST REV TIMOTHY J HARRIS
Bishop of Townsville

REV RODNEY T WARD
Notary