



Diocese of Prince George Office of the Bishop

Dispensation from the Sunday Obligation

On Thursday, October 14, 2021, the BC Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health introduced additional health measures to stop the spread of COVID and to protect health services for most of the Northern Health region.

These additional measures became effective at midnight **Thursday, October 14**, and will remain in place until midnight **Friday, November 19** for the entire Northern Health region (with the exception of the Local Health areas west of Gitwagak: Terrace, Kitimat, Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert, Stikine, Telegraph Creek, Snow Country, and Nisga'a).

Part of these measures include a restriction on worship services (i.e., Mass) with only virtual services being permitted (i.e., meaning no in-person participation except for those performing ministries).

Due to the recent announcement by the BC Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health, Bishop Jensen has dispensed those in the diocese who are affected by the Public Health Order from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for the Sundays of October 17, 24, and 31, and November 7 and 14.

The public health order notes that the end date of the restrictions (November 19) may be subject to extension if cases remain high and vaccination rates remain low. Should the dispensation from Bishop Jensen need to be extended, a decree of extension will be issued at the appropriate time.

October 15, 2021