



**ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

DECREE REVOKING DISPENSATION FROM BEING PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, in February 2020, I offered the faithful a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass to many of the Faithful, and, in March, extended that dispensation to all of the faithful once Churches closed.

In September 2020, I reduced the scope of the dispensation with the intention of it being used only by those over 65 or who considered themselves truly at risk no matter what age; a good measurement was one who had not dined at a restaurant due to that same fear since the outbreak of the pandemic.

We are now in June 2021, fifteen months having passed since the outbreak of the pandemic. The vaccination has been widely distributed in Orange County, and the Centers for Disease Control not long ago advised that masks need not be worn by those who have been properly vaccinated. The state of California envisions a return to normal on 15 June 2021.

As a dispensation is to cease with the cessation of the motivating cause (cf. canon 93 of the *Code of Canon Law*), effective 12 June 2021, I hereby revoke the above-mentioned dispensation, wishing to make the following distinctions:

The following people are morally excused from attending Mass and indeed may be morally obliged not to attend Mass so as to avoid putting others at risk:

1. Those who are currently ill;
2. Those who have a fever or exhibit flu-like symptoms;
3. Those who have good reason to think they might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (for example, those who have been in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as Covid or influenza).

In those cases where a person may not be dispensed or excused from the obligation to attend Mass in one of the above categories, but may have significant fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass, for example, those who for good reason have not received the COVID vaccine, such persons should speak to their parish priest, who may grant a dispensation in individual cases per canon 1245 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

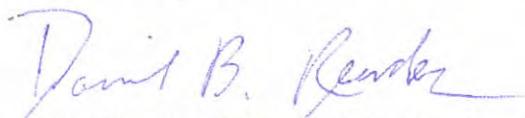
Please keep in mind that those who are dispensed or excused from the obligation to attend Mass must still fulfill the divine command to keep holy the Lord's Day and are encouraged to do so by

participating in a livestream broadcast of the Sunday Mass, spending time in prayer, reading the Bible, praying the Rosary, and/or meditating on the Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

Given in Garden Grove, from the Offices of the Pastoral Center on the campus of Christ Cathedral on this 3rd day of June, in the year of Our Lord 2021, the Liturgical memorial of Saint Charles Lwagna and Companions, martyrs.



The Most Reverend **Kevin William VANN**, J.C.D., D.D.
Bishop of Orange in California



The Very Reverend Daniel Brian Reader, M.Div., M.A.
Chancellor

