



## DIRECTIVE ON MULTIPLE MASS INTENTIONS

**To: Priests, Deacons and Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the Diocese of London**

The implementation of the Family of Parishes model has resulted in fewer weekday Masses being celebrated in the individual parishes. Instead of a daily Mass in most churches, there is now generally only one weekday Mass in the Family. As a result of this lessening of the number of weekday Masses, the number of uncelebrated Mass intentions is growing in many parishes. One consequence of this backlog is that those parishioners who have requested a Mass to be celebrated for a personal intention have to wait many months before the Mass is celebrated.

This situation needs to be addressed by an adjustment to our diocesan Mass Stipend Policy (1987). Therefore, the following shall hereafter be the norm in regard to the scheduling and celebration of personal Mass intentions in the Diocese of London.

1. The individual parish or Catholic Community may attach up to six (6) personal intentions to each weekday Mass.
2. On Sundays and holy days of obligation all Masses are to be offered for the intention of the people of the parish or Catholic Community.
3. Where the regulation in reference to no personal intentions being celebrated at Masses on Sunday or a holy day of obligation presents particular pastoral difficulties in a specific parish or Catholic Community, the pastor may petition the Bishop for an exemption to this rule in that community. In these instances, permission may be granted for a fixed number of personal Mass intentions to be celebrated at a Sunday Mass with the proviso that one of the intentions must be for the people of the parish or Catholic Community.
4. In accordance with canon 951, §1-2, the priest-celebrant may retain only one stipend per day. All other stipends for personal intentions attached to a Mass are to be forwarded at regular intervals to the diocesan accounting department to be used for a purpose determined by the Bishop. Furthermore, a priest who on the same day concelebrates a second Mass may not retain any offering made for that Mass.
5. Pastors are to be attentive to the norm of canon 953 not to accept more offerings for Masses than can be discharged within a year. Where more Masses are requested than can be celebrated, these are to be transferred to the diocesan accounting department to be distributed for celebration elsewhere unless the donors have expressly stipulated otherwise (see canon 954).

This new directive on Mass intentions allows a greater number of personal intentions for weekday Masses, so that we can better meet the needs of our Families of Parishes. It does not change, however, the basic direction of our longstanding practice. It is my expectation that this directive will be observed faithfully and carefully without deviation or unsanctioned variations in all our parishes and Catholic Communities.

The regulations in this directive come into effect immediately.

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London  
29 April 2022