



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON



200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston - Press Release

Monday, April 13, 2026

A Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2026. This seminal celebration takes place early in the Easter season with special guests, including Cardinals, Bishops, the Apostolic Nuncio, and elected officials who will join local clergy and laity in this historic celebration. A luncheon reception will follow, and representatives of each parish of the archdiocese will receive a specially commissioned Icon, created for the anniversary year, to take back to their home parishes.

Archbishop of Kingston, Michael Mulhall, chose a phrase from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians for the 200th anniversary theme, "*To know Christ and the power of His resurrection*" (Phil 3:10). Archbishop Mulhall stated, "Let us embrace these words for ourselves during this anniversary. May our souls express and strengthen a desire to know Christ, to listen to His words in the Gospels, to receive in faith, His precious body and blood in the Eucharist, and in our prayer grow into a deep personal relationship with the Risen Christ."

The Archdiocese of Kingston launched a twelve-month program to mark the 200th anniversary on December 8, 2025, with a Holy Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. A year-long liturgy guide for parishes animating the chosen theme, a summer speakers' forum in August for spiritual reflection, and pilgrimages to historic churches throughout the archdiocese are among the special events scheduled for 2026. The anniversary year will conclude on December 8, 2026, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patronal Feast of the Archdiocese of Kingston.

In a recent letter to the faithful of the archdiocese, Archbishop Mulhall wrote, "On January 27, 1826, Pope Leo XII erected the Diocese of Kingston and nominated Alexander MacDonnell as the first Bishop of Kingston. With this Papal act, Kingston became the second diocese in what is now known as Canada and the first Roman Catholic diocese erected in the British Empire since the Reformation! We live in the historical path of a wonderful heritage...May the Lord guide our plans for the anniversary and continue to send His bountiful graces to our parish communities."

For further information about the Archdiocese of Kingston's 200th Anniversary celebration, please contact Karen Shannon, Communications@archkingston.ca.