

STATEMENT



RELEASE DATE March 8, 2023

SUBJECT St. Patrick's Catholic Church to Re-Open on Occasion

In 2006 the East Lethbridge Catholic Parishes were merged into All Saints Parish. This reflected both the changing needs of the community and consideration of practical factors relating to church buildings, such as maintenance costs, accessibility, and parking availability. An appeal by a local community group to the Vatican – Apostolic Signatura resulted in a canonical ruling that there was an error in the application of canon law related to the 2016 closure decree of St. Patrick's Church in Lethbridge. Subsequently, the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vatican has advised the Diocese of Calgary that St. Patrick's Church must re-open for private prayer at least on occasion, and that Mass be celebrated on the titular feast day of the church (i.e. March 17) and on the anniversary of its dedication (i.e. September 24)

Work has now been completed with appropriate municipal authorities so as to ensure that the re-opening of St. Patrick's Church for prayer and Mass, is done safely and in full legislative compliance.

St. Patrick's Church will open for private prayer on March 16, 2023 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

In addition, St. Patrick's will reopen for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 7 pm on March 17, 2023. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be led by Fr Derek Remus.

For more information, please contact the Catholic Diocese of Calgary or Fr. Kevin Tumback, Pastor, All Saints Parish, Lethbridge.

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