
**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa, January 21, 2016

**ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST TO PRESIDE AT A MULTILINGUAL MASS
ON SUNDAY JANUARY 24**

The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa will preside at the annual Homelands Mass on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 2:30 pm at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica – 385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. All are welcome to attend.

As a result of Archbishop Plourde's influence, the Mass grew over the years and began to take place at Notre Dame Cathedral under Archbishop Gervais. "I am privileged to continue this tradition of celebrating Mass in several different languages each year, in addition to French, English, and traditional Latin," said Archbishop Terrence Prendergast.

The Gospel will be read in one of India's dialects by Deacon Mathew N. Mathew who was ordained a permanent deacon last fall. The first and second readings will be read in Vietnamese and in Spanish, and the prayers of the faithful will be read in Polish, Lingala (Congo), Creole, Croatian, Portuguese and Tamil (Sri Lanka). Members of the Chinese community will participate in the offertory procession.

More than 750 members of the national parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa have been invited to join in the procession which will feature a display of traditional dress. More than thirty different groups have confirmed their participation. National flags will be displayed over the balconies of the cathedral and will remain in full view throughout the celebration.

A reception with international dishes will follow in the Cathedral hall.

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Media contact: **Deacon Gilles Ouellette**
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Colette Legault will greet the media at the church.