



# ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As shared with you in my letter of June 25, 2024, the remains of the 55 Irish immigrants were discovered during an excavation in 2021 at Kingston Health Science Centre (KHSC) and 52 of these individuals were laid to rest within the consecrated ground of St. Mary Cemetery at the end of June with the Rite of Christian Burial performed at that time. The Holy Mass of Christian Burial for the remains of all Irish immigrants will take place on **August 7 at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception** in the presence of the remaining three individuals (one man, one woman, and one child). Their interment will occur at St. Mary Cemetery following Holy Mass at approximately 3:15 pm. All are welcome to attend on August 7 where our prayers will join together in remembrance of these 55 individuals and all who perished and were buried in haste at this time of great suffering and hardship.

Evidence collected by the archeology research team overseeing the deposition of the KHSC site indicates that these individuals were likely among the more than 1400 Irish immigrants who perished due to typhus or other illnesses upon arrival to the Kingston area and were buried on the grounds of KHSC. The remains of those previously recovered from this site were interred at St. Mary Cemetery in 1966. Since it is impossible to confirm the identities of the 55 recently recovered individuals, the names of all listed in the 1847 death registry from St. Mary who were presumed to be buried on the grounds of KHSC will be posted at the Church on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The list of names and further information on the circumstances surrounding the emigration of thousands of Irish settlers through the Port of Kingston in 1847/1848 and the efforts of the sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, the clergy, and the local community to minister to their needs will be posted on the Archdiocesan website on Monday, July 15, 2024.

Once again, I invite you to share this information within your communities as appropriate. Please keep the souls of these immigrants, the welfare of all displaced peoples, and the holy souls in purgatory in your daily prayers.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Michael Mulhall

Archbishop of Kingston