



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Wednesday, June 19th, the Archdiocese of Kingston received the remains of 55 immigrants who perished due to disease upon arrival by boat from southern Ireland in 1847/1848. The existence of their previous resting place was discovered in 2021 on the grounds of Kingston Health Sciences (KHS). KHS engaged government authorities and an archeological and cultural preservation team who have managed a site disposition plan. The plan included documenting and caring for the remains of these men, women, and children, and relocating their remains to the consecrated grounds of St. Mary's cemetery.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated for these 55 individuals on August 7th at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. At that time, the caskets of one man, one woman, and one child will be present and the interment at St. Mary's cemetery will take place following Holy Mass. All who wish to attend are welcome. A burial plot close to the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (RHSJ) has been chosen for the final resting place of all 55 individuals. It was the RHSJ Sisters who had arrived in Kingston only two years previous and received special permission to break Cloister to care for the sick and dying immigrants who were arriving by boat.

The remains of the 52 other individuals will be laid to rest at St. Mary Cemetery later this week with the Rite of Christian Burial performed by Fr. Shawn Hughes, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. We commend the souls of these individuals who suffered countless hardships in their lifetime to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Further information about the funeral Mass on August 7th will be forthcoming and I invite you to share the 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