



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARDINAL COLLINS RETURNS FROM CONCLAVE TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK

- GTA Catholics observe holiest time of year -

TORONTO (March 22, 2013) – After nearly a month of momentous events in Vatican City, including the retirement of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and subsequent conclave to elect the 266th Pontiff, His Holiness, Pope Francis, Cardinal Thomas Collins returns to Toronto for the holiest period of the church calendar to celebrate with the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

As Catholics throughout the archdiocese prepare for Easter, Cardinal Collins will preside at a number of spiritual and pastoral events over the next several days. Below is a list of some key events in His Eminence's schedule that may be of interest to media outlets.

- **World Youth Day Palm Sunday Celebration**, March 23 – 6 p.m.
St. Paul's Basilica – St. Michael's Cathedral (Mass and procession with WYD Cross)
- hundreds of young people will process on Queen St. before attending Palm Sunday Mass at the cathedral Saturday evening; procession begins approx. 6:30 p.m.
- **Palm Sunday**, March 24 - 12 p.m. - Passion of the Lord (Cardinal Collins, celebrant)
MEDIA AVAILABILITY FOLLOWING MASS *To accommodate the numerous media requests for his thoughts on the 2013 conclave to elect Pope Francis, Cardinal Collins will meet with the media following the celebration of this Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral.*
- **Chrism Mass**, Tuesday, March 26 – 11 a.m. (presiding with 300+ priests present)
The annual spiritual celebration during Holy Week, when priests renew their vows before the bishop of the diocese and oils for all sacraments for the coming year are blessed.
- **Good Friday**, March 29 - 3 p.m. - The Lord's Passion (Cardinal Collins, celebrant)
- **Easter Sunday**, March 31 - noon (Cardinal Collins, celebrant)

As one of the most diverse dioceses in the world, the Archdiocese of Toronto is home to 1.9 million Catholics who celebrate Mass each week in over 30 different languages. More than 800 diocesan and religious priests serve the Catholic community in 225 parishes across the Archdiocese.

NOTE: *In an effort to ensure appropriate access for these events, we request that all interested media outlets contact the Office of Public Relations & Communications prior to arriving at St. Michael's Cathedral.*

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