

September, 1893, the Supreme Pontiff has been graciously pleased to relieve henceforth the Catholics of this Ecclesiastical Province from the obligation of abstaining from servile works on the Feast of the Annunciation, Ascension Thursday, Corpus Christi, and the Feast of Saint Peter and Paul. Regarding the obligation of assisting at Mass on the aforementioned days, as well as on the Feast of St. Patrick for the Diocese of Halifax, the Holy Father has left it to the Bishops to enjoin either the hearing of Mass, or the recitation of some prayer in lieu thereof.

The undersigned Archbishop and Bishops, while earnestly exhorting their respective flocks to assist at an early Mass when convenient on those days, do not impose it as of obligation. They make it, however, binding on the conscience of those who do not assist at the Divine Sacrifice, to recite a third part of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin instead. The various members of a household may satisfy this obligation by reciting the Rosary in common. Indeed this method is most strongly recommended. Pastors are requested to carefully explain this obligation to their people, to remind them of it on the Sundays preceding the suppressed Feasts, and to impress it on the children when preparing them for first Communion and Confirmation.