



ARCHDIOCESE OFFERS SHELTER SPACE IN THE FORMER SAINT PATRICK CHURCH

HALIFAX, NS - MARCH 4, 2025 – The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth has partnered with the Nova Scotia Government to offer a temporary homeless shelter in the basement of the former Saint Patrick’s Church on Brunswick St. in downtown Halifax. The shelter has 25 beds and will offer two meals a day, sleeping kits, washrooms, showers, laundry facilities and communal space. The day to day operations of the shelter will be overseen by Soul’s Harbour Rescue Mission.

This is not the first time the building has been used as a shelter. In the 1990s to the early 2000s the basement of Saint Patrick’s was used in the winter months by the Out of the Cold Community Association Halifax to provide overnight shelter for those on the street.

“I am pleased that we are able to use the space in a way that continues to serve the community and provide temporary support to those who are homeless,” said Archbishop Brian J. Dunn. “There is a deep sadness for so many when a church building can no longer be used as a space for worship. However, using what resources we have to respond to a need in the community; that is what we want to do as the Church.”

The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth owns the building and has been working to bring the structure up to code after it was shuttered by the city due to safety concerns in the summer of 2024. The church was officially closed in May 2024. It was closed by the city before the parish community could hold a closing Mass. Conversations will resume to find an appropriate way for former parishioners to remember and honour the faith community that found a spiritual home in the space.

The work needed to ensure the building is safe was completed in recent weeks and the temporary shelter opened on February 28. It is expected to remain there until August.

The Archdiocese is still determining the future of the building long term.

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