



Ottawa – His Holiness Pope Francis accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend Brendan O'Brien as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kingston, and today appointed his successor the Most Reverend Michael Mulhall. At the time of his appointment, Bishop Mulhall was Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke. Archbishop O'Brien has been the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kingston for the past 12 years. He submitted his resignation to the Holy Father upon reaching the age of 75, as required by the Code of Canon Law.

Bishop Mulhall was born in Peterborough, Ontario, on 25 February 1962. He attended Trent University in Peterborough from which he obtained a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Philosophical Studies, followed by a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Peterborough on 21 July 1989. He then completed additional studies at the Patristic Institute Augustinianum, while following the formation program at the North American College, both of which were in Rome. After serving in pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Peterborough from 1991 to 1994, he served from 1994 to 2002 as an official of the Holy See in the Congregation for Oriental Churches. After returning to Canada in 2002, he again served in the Diocese of Peterborough as pastor, as well as Chancellor for Spiritual Affairs (2003-2007) and Vicar General (2004-2007). On 30 June 2007, he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke and ordained Bishop at Pembroke on 21 September 2007. As a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Bishop Mulhall currently serves as a member of the Orthodox-Catholic Bishops' Dialogue as well as a member of the Episcopal Commission for Doctrine.

Archbishop O'Brien is originally from Ottawa, serving the Archdiocese of Ottawa as a pastor as well as Vicar General, Coordinator of Pastoral Work. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa in 1987. In 1993 he was appointed Bishop of Pembroke, and then in 2000 he was named Archbishop of St. John's, Newfoundland. He served as Archbishop of St. John's for six years prior to his appointment as Archbishop of Kingston on 31 May 2007.



As a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop O'Brien served on the then Episcopal Commission for Social Affairs (1987-1991 and 2005-2008), the then Episcopal Commission for Theology (1991-1995), the then Programs and Priorities Committee (1991-1993 and 2000-2003), the *Ad hoc* Committee on Responsibility in Ministry (1993-1995), as well as the then Commission for Relations with Associations of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Laity (1999-2001) for which he was Chairman from 2001 to 2003. From 1994 to 2002, he served as Bishop *ponens* for the Pontifical Mission Societies (English Sector) and, in the same time period, Chairman of the then Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism from 1995-1999. In addition to serving on the CCCB's Permanent Council from 1995 to 2005, he was Co-Treasurer, 1999 to 2001, Vice-President, 2001 to 2003, and then President of the Conference, 2003 to 2005. Following his term as CCCB President, Archbishop O'Brien continued to serve in various roles, including as the CCCB Bishop *ponens* with what was then the Catholic Health Association of Canada (2007-2012), Chairman for the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (2008-2011), member of the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue (2011-2017), and as a member of the Roman Catholic/United Church Dialogue (2015-2019).

The Archdiocese of Kingston has 70 parishes and missions, with a Catholic population of 116,500 served by 63 diocesan priests, 11 priests who are members of institutes of consecrated life, 27 permanent deacons, as well as one Brother and 110 Sisters who are members of institutes of religious life.