

History of the Archdiocese

Catholic Population - 116,845
(2001 Census)
51 parishes and 20 missions [Map](#)

The Archdiocese of Kingston, located in Eastern Ontario, serves over 100,000 Catholics. It is Canada's oldest English-speaking Roman Catholic Diocese. It was founded on 27 January 1826, by the division of the Archdiocese of Québec, and became an Archdiocese on 28 December 1889.

The Archdiocese of Kingston comprises the counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward, and the southern portions of Hastings County; the counties of Leeds, Grenville, Dundas, and the southwestern part of Lanark.

The population is primarily Anglophone, although a considerable number of Francophones live throughout the Archdiocese. There is one exclusively French parish in the City of Kingston.

Many different cultures and communities of people are also served in the diocese. There is a Portuguese parish in Kingston, and there are apostolates to Hispanic, Ukrainian and Polish communities, as well as ministries to youth, to prisoners, to the deaf and to the aged and infirm.

[HIERARCHY](#)

PAST AND PRESENT ORDINARIES

1. [Alexander MacDonell](#) †
(Appointed 12 Jan [1819](#) - Died 14 Jan [1840](#))
2. [Rémi Gaulin](#) †
(Succeeded 14 Jan [1840](#) - Died 8 May [1857](#))
3. [Patrick Phelan](#), P.S.S. †
(Succeeded 8 May [1857](#) - Died 7 Jun [1857](#))
4. [Edward John Horan](#) †
(Appointed 8 Jan [1858](#) - Resigned 16 Jun [1874](#))
5. [John O'Brien](#) †
(Appointed 12 Feb [1875](#) - Died 1 Aug [1879](#))
6. [James Vincent Cleary](#) †
(Appointed 1 Oct [1880](#) - Died 24 Feb [1898](#))
7. [Charles-Hugues Gauthier](#) †
(Appointed 29 Jul [1898](#) - Appointed 6 Sep [1910](#), Archbishop of [Ottawa](#), Ontario)
8. [Michael Joseph Spratt](#) †
(Appointed 17 Jul [1911](#) - Died 23 Feb [1938](#))
9. [Richard Michael Joseph O'Brien](#) †
(Succeeded 23 Feb [1938](#) - Died 30 Aug [1943](#))

10. [Joseph Anthony O'Sullivan](#) †
(Appointed 26 Feb [1944](#) - Retired 14 Dec [1966](#))
11. [Joseph Lawrence Wilhelm](#) †
(Appointed 14 Dec [1966](#) - Resigned 12 Mar [1982](#))
12. [Francis John Spence](#)
(Appointed 24 April [1982](#) - Retired 27 April [2002](#)) - Died 27 July 2011
13. [Anthony Giroux Meagher](#) †
(Appointed 27 Apr [2002](#) - Died 14 Jan [2007](#))
14. [Brendan Michael O'Brien](#)
(Appointed 1 June 2007 -)