

May 5, 2020

To all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Osaka:

**On precautionary measures against  
the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection (VII)**

+ Peace of Christ!

As you know, the nationwide state of emergency has been extended up to May 31, and Osaka and Hyogo are considered two of the “special alert prefectures.” In light of the present situation, I announce the following changes:

1. The public celebration of Masses will be suspended until Sunday, May 31. As for other church-related activities such as gatherings and seminars, please cancel or postpone them as much as possible.
2. The activities planned by the Archdiocese for the months of May and June will be rescheduled as follows:
  - a) **Wednesday, May 20 - The Presbyterial Council (*shisai hyōgi-kai*) and the Chrism Mass:** The meeting will start at 10:00 AM in the Cathedral. At 11:00, Chrism Mass will be celebrated privately only with the Council members. To priests: bring your own albs and stoles (liturgical color: white). Those who feel unwell or who feel uneasy using public transports, please refrain from attending. At 12 noon, lunch boxes (*obento*) will be served. The celebration of the silver, gold, diamond, and platinum anniversaries of priestly ordination will be postponed to another day or until next year.
  - b) **Wednesday, May 27 - Monthly meeting of pastoral workers (*gesshū*, Mass in the Kabutoyama Cemetery):** To be suspended
  - c) **Wednesday, June 3 - The College of Consultors (*komon-kai*):** The meeting will take place in the Archbishop’s Residence from 10:00 AM.
  - d) **Tuesday, June 16 - Wednesday 17 – Pastoral Workers Formation Seminar (*kyōku shibokusha kenshū-kai*):** To be suspended
  - e) **Wednesday, June 17 - Assembly of Coordinators of pastoral zones (*chikuchō*) and Presidents of Archdiocesan Committees (*iinchō*):** To be suspended

f) **Sunday, June 28 - The Diocesan Pastoral Council (*kyōku senkyō shibokusha hyōgi-kai*):**  
To be suspended

3. The decision to administer the sacraments (Baptism, Holy Communion, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick) is left to the discretion of parish priests.
4. The celebration of funerals and marriages are permitted provided that all necessary precautionary measures are taken to avoid infection.
5. The Sunday Mass Obligation is dispensed for all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Osaka while the suspension of the public celebration of Masses lasts. I ask each faithful to do the Mass Readings for the day and privately offer prayers at home such as by praying the Rosary.
6. To those responsible for pastoral care: while direct contact must be avoided as much as possible, try to attend to the spiritual needs of the faithful by utilizing other means of communication.
7. Should the present situation change such as in case the end of the state of emergency is declared, I will announce a new statement accordingly.

**N.B.** This directive in other languages will be published on the Archdiocesan website.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Thomas Aquinas Manyo Cardinal Maeda  
Archbishop of Osaka