

11 March 2020

**Official Notice from Catholic Diocese of Fukuoka  
on Further Suspension of Public Masses from 15 March to 29 March  
due to the Spread of COVID-19**

Dear brothers and sisters in Diocese of Fukuoka,

As reported, Japanese government has requested to continue to take certain measures against COVID-19, such as refraining from having big events.

Responding to this situation, the Diocese of Fukuoka decided to continue the suspension of Public Masses as follows:

1. Public masses from 15 March to 29 March will be suspended. All the faithful under Diocese of Fukuoka will be dispensed from the obligation to participate in the Mass on Sundays during this period. I would like to ask all the faithful to take time of prayer on Sundays by reading and meditating the Words of God. If possible, please do it with your family. Also, I ask all the priests in the diocese to celebrate masses individually in spiritual communion with each community and the faithful. In regards of celebrating Mass at religious communities/convents, I ask each priests in the diocese to make a proper decision for that.
2. For events other than masses, please consider postponing or cancelling them.
3. Concerning weddings and funerals, please make decisions based on common sense. And when it is celebrated, kindly take adequate precautionary measures against infections.

Further notice for the measure after 29 March will be followed at appropriate time.

We are now facing the trial, which go beyond our thoughts. By following Jesus Christ, let us journey in solidarity with the most afflicted and the people who are serving in this crisis with big sacrifice.

Peter Hironobu Sugihara,  
Apostolic Administrator,  
Diocese of Fukuoka