

24 April 2020

**Official Notice from Catholic Diocese of Fukuoka
on Further Suspension of Public Masses until the end of May
due to the Spread of COVID-19**

Dear brothers and sisters in Diocese of Fukuoka,

As you are aware, the situation regarding COVID-19 is getting no better at this moment. For this, we would like to continue our suspension of Public Masses in the Diocese of Fukuoka as follows:

1. Public Masses will be suspended until the end of May 2020. All the faithful under Diocese of Fukuoka will be dispensed from the obligation to participate in the Mass on Sundays during this period. I will ask the priests in the diocese to follow this measure strictly and celebrate Masses individually without a participation of any faithful.
2. For all meetings and events other than masses, please cancel them.
3. Concerning weddings and funerals, I ask each priest on the ground to make decisions based on common sense.
4. When possible, please cooperate in Emergency Fundraising for COVID-19, which is set up under Caritas Japan (<https://www.caritas.jp/>).

Taking into consideration the measures announced by national and local government, this decision is made through the discussion by the council of consultants, together with counsel from Catholic medical professionals of the diocese.

Even though it is very difficult to live in this condition, let us overcome by our solidarity. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Peter Hironobu Sugihara,
Apostolic Administrator,
Diocese of Fukuoka