

カトリック福岡司教区
DIOCESE OF FUKUOKA

カトリック福岡司教館
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Bishop's House
6-28 Josuidori, Chuo-ku
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Fukuoka, January 13, 2021

To the priests, religious and laity of the Diocese of Fukuoka

The peace of the Lord be with you

At the meeting of the Governing Council of the Diocese of Fukuoka on January 12, the situation regarding COVID-19 was discussed. Based on these determinations, I inform you of the following:

1. Today, January 13, a state of emergency has been decreed in the Fukuoka province. In the Diocese of Fukuoka, we will follow the indications given by the Episcopal Conference of Japan, on November 1, 2020, regarding the public celebration of Mass, sacraments, funerals and other activities of the church. Based on these criteria, given that in the province of Fukuoka the state of emergency has been decreed today, the public celebration of Mass is abolished until the declaration of the state of emergency is canceled. In the churches and chapels of the Kumamoto and Saga provinces, this same rule must be followed if a state of emergency is decreed there. Regarding the celebration of the sacraments and other activities, the indications given by the Episcopal Conference of Japan should be followed.
2. The meeting of the Presbyteral Council of the diocese scheduled for January 26 is postponed.
3. The clergy meeting planned for February 1 and 2 is cancelled.
4. As for the celebration of Ash Wednesday, the imposition of the ash will not be done on the forehead, but a little ash will be poured on the head of each faithful.

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I copy number 3 of the document of the Episcopal Conference of Japan, which is the one that applies in this case. However, if there were any special circumstances regarding the administration of the sacraments, you can consult directly with the Bishop.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF JAPAN

3. When an infectious disease spreads in Japan

Steps to take when an infectious disease is spreading in Japan and the government has declared a state of emergency and requested refraining from business and movement:

- Cancel Masses with a congregation (Masses without a congregation may be celebrated) and dispense all Catholics from the obligation to attend Mass.
- Cancel all church activities except Masses without a congregation.
- Postpone the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony and Penance will. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick should be administered only in case of emergency and with proper measures against infection.
- Funerals should be planned in consultation with the bereaved including sufficient measures against infection. Consideration should be given to cremating the remains but postponing the funeral to a later date.

May the good Lord bless you all. Fraternally in Christ,



Josep M. Abella
Bishop of Fukuoka