

カトリック福岡司教区  
DIOCESE OF FUKUOKA

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Fukuoka, February 5, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters:

We are going to begin our Lenten journey. The situation concerning COVID-19 continues to hinder the activities of our Christian communities. In the provinces of Fukuoka and Kumamoto the Eucharist has not been celebrated with the participation of the faithful since the declaration, a month ago, of the state of emergency. We all regret not being able to come together to celebrate the Eucharist, which is the center of the life of the Christian community, but the current pandemic situation forces us to do so. I appreciate your understanding and collaboration. During this time, every Sunday at 10 A.M., the Eucharistic celebration is broadcast online from the cathedral. In this way, everyone is offered the opportunity to listen to the Word of God and unite in common prayer.

On the 2nd of this month the government of Japan announced the continuation of the state of emergency until March 7 in some provinces of the country, among which is Fukuoka. For this reason, in the province of Fukuoka the prohibition of celebrating the Eucharist with the participation of the faithful will continue until that day. The province of Kumamoto has also declared the continuation of the state of emergency until February 21. So, there also the prohibition of celebrating the Mass with participation of the faithful continues until that day. Should the state of emergency be lifted before the indicated date, Mass with the presence of the faithful must be immediately restarted. In the province of Saga, they can continue celebrating the Mass with the participation of the faithful, strictly complying with the security regulations given by the diocese.

The safety regulations that we have been giving go beyond what the government asks for, but we do it to avoid “becoming infected” or “infecting others”. Thank you all for your understanding. Even amid this pandemic situation, there are activities that can continue to be carried out; do not suppress them. You can also think of some activities using internet. Going or returning from work, school, or shopping, I advise you to find a moment to go to church and spend some time in silent prayer before the Lord. It will help you maintain peace of heart and hope. Let us pray for all the people affected in some way by COVID-19. I ask the Lord to see the end of this pandemic soon. Fraternally in Christ,



Josep M. Abella  
Bishop of Fukuoka Diocese