

カトリック福岡司教区  
DIOCESE OF FUKUOKA

カトリック福岡司教館  
810-0028 福岡市中央区浄水通 6-28  
Tel.092-522-5139 fax 092-523-2152

Bishop's House  
6-28 Josuidori, Chuo-ku  
810-0028 Fukuoka, JAPAN

Prot.No.7/2025

Fukuoka, March 10, 2025

To the parish priests and superiors of religious communities

We have already begun Lent. United with the entire church we listen attentively to the call to conversion and prepare to celebrate the Lord's Easter.

Pope Francis, in his Lenten message, calls us to "*journey together in hope*". He writes: "Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (cf. *Jn 10:28; 17:3*)".

I ask all parish priests and leaders of religious communities to keep in mind the two aspects that I mention below and to abide by these norms.

1. On Friday of the second week of Lent we will join the entire church in the day of prayer and penance for the victims of sexual abuse." On that day, Mass should be celebrated in each parish or convent for this intention. Sharing the suffering of the victims we will ask the Lord to heal their wounds and we will renew our commitment to respect the dignity of each person.
2. I ask the parish priests to call for the participation of the faithful in the liturgical celebrations of the Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Friday and Saturday). May each community unite in the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the Lord and in welcoming the people who will receive the sacraments of Christian initiation on Holy Saturday. For this reason, the English and Vietnamese language groups should not celebrate the liturgy separately, but join with the other faithful in the parish celebrations of the Easter Triduum. It will be good, however, that the persons responsible for the liturgy try to integrate some prayers or songs in different languages into the liturgy so that everyone can feel an active part of the celebrations. On Easter Sunday, each group can celebrate the Mass as they do every Sunday.

I ask the Lord's blessing for each of you and your families.



Josep M. Abella

Bishop of the diocese of Fukuoka

