

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF OSAKA

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February 28, 2020

To all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Osaka,

**On Safety Measures against the Spread of  
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infections (II)**

+ Peace of Christ!

I have just issued an advisory on February 26 regarding the novel coronavirus infections. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has officially called for the closure of all public elementary, junior high and high schools nationwide from March 2 until the start of students' spring break. Responding to this request, the City Councils of Osaka and Sakai decided to close down all elementary, junior high and high schools as well as kindergartens from February 29 to March 13.

Due to these circumstances, I have decided to adopt the following measures:

1. The public celebration of all Sunday Masses for two weeks beginning from February 29 (Saturday) to March 14 (Saturday) will be suspended in all parishes as well as in centers where Mass is usually celebrated with a large number of the lay faithful.
2. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is dispensed for all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Osaka for March 1 and 8. I ask each faithful to read the Sacred Scriptures and privately offer prayers at home, such as by praying the Rosary.
3. During the period (from February 29 to March 14), all public celebrations of weekday Masses will be suspended except for those places where only a small number of the faithful attend.
4. This advisory also applies to other events, meetings or seminars: during the period stated above, postpone or suspend them as much as possible.
5. The celebration of funerals and marriages are not suspended, provided that all necessary safety measures are taken to avoid infections.

I ask you to circulate this advisory as wide as possible to all the faithful including those from overseas. This advisory in other languages will be published on the Archdiocesan website.

I will announce further notices regarding this matter in light of the development of situation. Let us pray together for the swift end of this calamity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Thomas Aquinas Manyo Cardinal Maeda  
Archbishop of Osaka