

Apostolic Vicariate in Brunei Darussalam
Vicar Apostolic of Kuching (Incorporation) Act, 1973
Church of the Assumption
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Rev Father Paul Shie,
St John's Church,
Kuala Belait.

Rev Father Robert Leong
Church of Our Lady,
Seria.

Rev Father Arin Sugit
Church of the Assumption,
Bandar Seri Begawan.

Dear Fathers

COVID-19: Some Short-Term Measures To Be Adopted By Our Parishes

Peace be with you.

I wish to outline the actions which we will be taking as a vicariate to address the current situation in regard to the COVID-19 issue affecting our country.

1. From Saturday 14th March to 29th March:
 - a. All Sunday and weekday masses will be canceled
 - b. Stations of the Cross on ALL Fridays in Lent
 - c. Friday lunch fellowship
2. With immediate effect, all non-essential meetings will be cancelled
 - a. Prayer meetings
 - i. Retreats and Recollections (including Seven Last Words)
 - b. Catechetical events
 - i. Sunday School and Friday School
 - ii. RCIA classes
3. A date for parish confessions will be announced at a later date. Personal confessions can be arranged with the parish priest at any time.
4. Funerals will be conducted privately and limited to immediate family members and close associates.
5. For any matters requiring the assistance of a priest, please ask your parishioners to contact you directly via the respective Parish Office.

Notes

1. During this period when masses are suspended, Catholics in our vicariate are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to attend mass. Instead they are urged to pray at home as a family. Reflect on the Scripture readings using the Sunday missal and other useful prayer aids. Read the Bible as a family, pray Catholic devotions such as Stations of the Cross and the Rosary, make acts of spiritual communion. Catholics may also avail of streaming / broadcast masses. These are some ways to fulfill our spiritual obligations to God. They do not substitute for the mass but go some way to assist in maintaining our spiritual relationship with the Lord.
2. Links for streaming masses will be available on the vicariate webpage. We hope to implement our own streaming service shortly.

3. The churches will be open from 6 am to 9 pm daily for personal prayer and devotion.
4. The above steps taken are subject to review as the picture changes with regard to the progress of the epidemic and new information is made available on effective ways to combat it.

I request your assistance in disseminating the above measures to our parishioners. I believe they are a prudent and appropriate exercise of our responsibility towards each other and the members of our society. I count on the support of the Parish Pastoral Councils and all faithful Catholics for their prayers and cooperation in implementing these actions.

Let us keep in mind the words of Psalm 91:1-2 as we place our confidence in the Lord.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

May God bless each one of us and our parishioners as together we seek God's mercy and protection during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Cornelius Sim
Vicar Apostolic
Brunei Darussalam

14th March 2020