

Diocese of Takamatsu

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Catholic Diocese of Takamatsu

Prot.No. 87/21



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New guidelines for Mass under the current pandemic conditions of the novel coronavirus.

†The peace of our Lord be with you.

In April of this year we announced a set of guidelines for the management of churches under pandemic conditions of the novel coronavirus. However, based on the recent spread of the infection, we will modify the policy for Sunday Mass, in order that we may continue to celebrate the Sunday Mass as much as possible, while adhering to the guidelines set by the government. Each parish should make a plan to respond to these guidelines approved by the pastor of each parish, based on the advice of the parish council. The final approval will be granted by the bishop, who will also make decisions that are urgent, as necessary, and pass that information on to the parishes.

1. Since the spread of the infection appears that it will be for a long time, we will do our best to make sure that we are able to have public Sunday Masses.
2. We should remember to avoid crowds of more than 3 people, we should keep a record of the contact information for people who gather, and we should remember to disinfect. We should make efforts to keep these rules, and refuse participation of those who cannot follow these basic guidelines
3. We should minimize conversations on the church grounds and keep silent inside the church.
4. Besides the priest and lectors everyone should celebrate the Mass in silence. Only the lectors should respond to the priests out loud. Parishioners and altar servers should all celebrate what is referred to as "a silent Mass." The Holy Eucharist will be carried out as usual, according to the previous guidelines.
5. The organ can be used to supplement the Mass and make up for the silence of the people.
6. If people come into close contact with individuals who have been infected by the novel coronavirus, they should not attend Mass for a minimum of 7 days.
7. Please let foreigners in your Parish know about these rules if they do not understand the language. All other gatherings and dinners are also prohibited in all churches in Shikoku.

In the case that a parishioner who has attended Mass is infected in any parish:

1. Masses will be suspended for 2 weeks after the infection appears. If it is determined that no subsequent infections have taken place in the church, Masses can be resumed at the end of this 2-week period of time.