

May 24, 2020
Bishop of the Diocese of Takamatsu
Apostle John, Eijiro Suwa

To all the parishioners in the Diocese of Takamatsu (Regarding the reopening of public Masses):

† The peace of our Lord be with you.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but it is our intention to normalize all church activities from next Sunday, May 31 (Pentecost Sunday), although certain restrictions will be unavoidable. Sunday and Weekday Masses will resume along with ceremonies, bible study sessions and special study sessions, and other gatherings and service activities, just as before the corona virus pandemic.

“Certain restrictions,” was mentioned because the corona virus did not disappear, and the cooperation of the public is still required to prevent any further spread. It is assumed that there are more people infected than have been symptomatic. So, it is in a way strange that none of us have been infected. So, while resuming all activities of the church, this information is supplemental to what was announced on March 26. (The planned implementation period for this will last until the end of June)

Procedures you should follow as you resume church activities:

① Those who meet the following conditions **should not participate in the Mass**

- (Before leaving your home) Those who have a fever before Mass (even a slight fever).
- Those who are at high risk if they are infected by the virus, such as people with special medical conditions or the elderly.
- People who have had ill and have seen a doctor in the past week with symptoms that include a fever or respiratory problems (such as a cold).
- Those who have visited areas where the infection is spreading, or visited a foreign country within the last 10 days.

② <Those who will participate in service, helping with the liturgy of the Mass>
It is important to follow the instructions of the parish priest:

- The windows and doors of the church should be left open as much as possible.
- In case of emergency, participants should write their names on a ledger at the entrance, so that someone can be contacted if necessary.
- Hands sanitizer should be used upon entering and leaving the church. (People with allergies or skin problems are not required to do this.)
- Masks should be worn by everyone, including the celebrants, and a distance of at least 1 meter should be kept.
- Hymns will not be sung during Mass. Prayers should also be said in a quiet voice.
- The bread used for the Host will not be placed individually in the receptacle before the Mass. It will be prepared for everyone beforehand by the liturgical staff.