

Diocese of Takamatsu

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Catholic Diocese of Takamatsu
Prot.No. 42 / 20



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June 16, 2020
Bishop of the Diocese of Takamatsu
Apostle John, Eijiro Suwa

To the people of The Diocese of Takamatsu (concerning lifting restrictions.)

† May the peace of our Lord be with you.

We have gone through some difficult times. However, each parish has taken positive and fulfilling steps toward normalizing church activities. Although it has been unavoidable in order to prevent the spread of the infection, we are sorry for the inconvenience, and we plan to normalize church activities from July. Since the danger of infection still lingers, we are leaving it up to the local parish priests to decide how they will resume activities. With the exception of some areas, signs of the spread of infection have mainly disappeared, and no new cases have been seen within the diocese. Therefore, from the beginning of July we have decided to lift restrictions that were in place because of the Corona Virus.

However, there is especially a great fear that virus will spread again from late autumn. As the government thinks about what to do about the spread of the infection, the diocese wants to avoid being unprepared to face an outbreak, as we were in the spring. We therefore feel that the use of the Internet is inevitable. Rather than being totally unable to hold meetings and other gatherings at the diocesan or parish level, we should be prepared to spend time and effort to maintain activities as much as possible through the Internet. We have worried about personal information, and because of this there are many parishes that have been hesitant about maintaining a list of parishioners. But, it might be good to keep such lists again, in order to avoid the isolation of those who need contact, such as the elderly. Due to the worry about personal information, we have made it more difficult to carry on and maintain church activities, including a worry about the parishioners who have been most in need to staying connected.

We plan to contact all of those involved, but I would like to make it a priority to have meetings this July with both the Missionary Council and the Council of Priests, if possible.

The outbreak of the Corona Virus has brought about great changes in Japanese society, to include education. The church has also seen great change. I sincerely hope that this crisis will be turned around. We pray with all our hearts for the health and well being of all.