

Diocese of Takamatsu

カトリック高松司教区

〒760-0074

香川県高松市桜町1-8-9

E-mail: catholic-takamatsu@takamatsu.catholic.ne.jp

電話 087-831-6659 FAX 087-833-1484

Catholic Diocese of Takamatsu

Prot.No. 26/20



Chancery Office

Catholic Diocese of Takamatsu

Sakuramachi 1-8-9,

Takamatsu-shi, 760-0074

Kagawa-ken, Japan.

E-mail: catholic-takamatsu@takamatsu.catholic.ne.jp

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Dear Catholics in the Diocese of Takamatsu,

Happy Easter.

Every year we welcome the Easter season at the time when Spring approaches. But this year we do that under special circumstances. We celebrated Holy Week with many fears about the New Corona Virus and find the church around the world united in meditation, and of the same mind to get rid of this infection and regain hope and smiles in our society. At the same time, as we celebrate Easter, we have made it an issue to eliminate conflicts between nations and do all that we can to assist and protect all human beings around the world, particularly those in areas of that are lacking many resources.

Even in the 4 prefectures of Shikoku, we are now threatened by the spread of this virus more than we expected. There is a concern now that because of this, the facilities and people involved in medical care may be overwhelmed and the health care system may collapse. On April 7, Prime Minister Abe declared an Emergency in 7 prefectures (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Osaka, Hyogo, and Fukuoka). As a result, people have been asked to refrain from going out until May 6 in order to prevent the spread of the virus. We, the Catholic Church, are also required to maintain social responsibility and are required to take the appropriate steps to prevent infections from spreading from person to person.

Therefore, the Diocese of Takamatsu would like to inform everyone that all public Sunday Masses will be suspended at individual parishes until the emergency declaration has been lifted. The suspension of Masses may be lifted on May 6, but may also continue for a time after that, depending on the situation. We will keep you informed. Individual meetings and such things as visitations of the sick or infirm may also be limited. Please contact your parish priest (or deacon). Also, please see the diocese homepage.

It's unfortunate that many people have not been able to attend Masses and Holy Days for such a long time. It is a difficult situation, but please accept it, thinking about our medical professionals and people who live together, and continue to pray for a return to normal life. Remember that even though Masses are not open to the public, priests celebrate Mass daily. We recommend that you pray by yourself and continue to keep the time of Mass holy at your own homes. (You can also find the Mass viewable online from many parishes.)

I pray for the Lord's rich and healing blessings be upon you all.

Before the Sunday "Feast of Divine Mercy"

Apostle John, Eijiro Suwa

Bishop of the Diocese of Takamatsu