

Diocese of Takamatsu

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Catholic Diocese of Takamatsu

Prot.No. 31/20



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May 15, 2020

Bishop of The Diocese of Takamatsu
Apostle John, Eijiro Suwa

To the people of Takamatsu Diocese (after receiving the notice from the Japanese Government on May 14)

† The peace of our Lord be with you.

Yesterday, May 14, The Cabinet Secretary of the Japanese Government announced the cancellation of the official declaration of an emergency for the corona virus that was issued on April 7, 2020. This is for all except 8 prefectures, including Kyoto, Osaka, and Hyogo. Up to this point, the Diocese of Takamatsu has considered the civic and social responsibility of the church to help prevent the spread of the corona virus and has complied with the government's declaration of an emergency. We decided that public Masses would be cancelled until the declaration of an emergency was lifted. Indeed the 4 prefectures of Shikoku have been excluded from the areas that are still under the declaration of an emergency. However, as the Cabinet Secretary announced, the corona virus infection has not settled down, and the government still needs the cooperation of the public in order to prevent the spread of this infection.

The diocese will continue the current measures of self-restraint for the time being.

As pastors, we know that you have been perplexed by the current state of affairs in the church, and have endured the inconvenience of this situation, maybe near your limit. In daily prayer, I ask God's will and ask for normalization of society and the church, as soon as possible. I am determined to endure with you for a while now in order that we might be able to come together soon. Please follow the guidelines above remembering that a large number of people should not gather, but small groups of less than 10 can get together and carry out some activities, although personal protection measures must be followed. In addition to going to the churches to pray, or to take personal communion, you can also work on things like church maintenance and cleaning, as well as study sessions and so on.

If things go well, I hope that we can open public Masses on May 31 in a reasonably normal manner. That day will be the celebration of the Pentecost (and the last day of the Holy Month of Our Lady). We plan to send an announcement to each parish later by fax. Moreover, we will post the announcement on the homepage for the diocese.