



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

MEMORANDUM

To: Clergy, Parishes and Catholic Faithful

From: Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu

Date: May 1, 2020

Subject: Updated General Directives and Liturgical Guidelines Due to the COVID-19 (Update #5)

Peace be with you!

“How long, O LORD?” (Psalm 13:1) These words, which we find in several places in the Scriptures are the words we cry out as we experience the effects of this global coronavirus pandemic. We long to physically encounter the Lord in the Eucharist and to gather once again with the other members of the Body of Christ to celebrate the sacraments and to witness the full initiation of the Elect in our diocese. It is a lament, but also a prayer of hope that the terrible situation we are in will soon end with the Lord’s healing touch.

I am well aware of the great pain that many are experiencing because we cannot yet safely gather for the celebration of the Eucharist. I have been doing extensive consultations and research on how we can safely reopen our churches for Masses, but the matter is not as simple as some suggest. As you know, Governor Ige has extended the order of stay-at-home lockdown until May 31 to continue the mitigation of the effects of the virus and stop its spread. After consultation with my staff and the Presbyteral Council, I am extending the directives promulgated in my last memorandum dated March 27, 2020. The extension of the Directives will go into effect immediately and until May 31, 2020. Therefore, I am dispensing all Catholics in the Diocese of Honolulu from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass through May 31, 2020.

We are working on various scenarios that might enable us to have Masses with limited numbers of people in the near future. As soon as the plan is ready, we will present it to our government officials for their concurrence. In the meantime, we ask everyone for your patience and understanding as we are trying our best to bring our parishioners back to our churches.

The following directives are in force through May 31, 2020:

- Parish churches, chapels, oratories, centers, and missions are to be closed to the public through May 31, 2020 (inclusive), or until further notice.
- All liturgical celebrations (e.g. Confirmation/First Holy Communion) from now through May 31 are canceled. The Office of the Vicar General will contact parishes which need to reschedule once the “all clear” is indicated by the civil authorities.
- The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is dispensed through May 31, 2020. [Priests are to continue the celebration of private Masses, with only the liturgical ministers necessary, especially for the intentions of their people. We encourage parish priests to continue the live-stream of their

liturgies to their parishioners via social media platforms and to communicate to them the times of these services and log-in information.]

- Parishes are invited to inform their parishioners of opportunities to view the Mass and other services via livestream or the parish's Facebook. Daily and Sunday Mass are currently being livestreamed from various parishes in our diocese. For a comprehensive and updated list please visit our website at www.catholichawaii.org.
- The faithful are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy. Some ways to do this include: reading the Scriptures of the day, especially the Gospels, praying with your families, and to joining yourself to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion. For more information and resources, please visit our website at www.catholichawaii.org.
- **Priests are reminded that they can still hear confessions by appointment only.** Please observe good spacing between the penitent and priest, while at the same time observing absolute privacy for the penitent. Confessions by phone or via the internet are not permitted. General absolution is not permitted, because it presumes a gathering of people.
- The Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum will only be administered, if possible, in situations where there is the danger of death. Please consult your parish priest, who will be given instructions on when and how to celebrate these sacraments during this time in which great prudence is needed for the safety and well-being of all.
- All funerals, weddings and baptisms for the month of May should be postponed until further notice. If desired by the family, a memorial Mass can be scheduled appropriately at a later date.

Liturgies at which Bishop Larry Silva will preside will be private, with only the liturgical ministers necessary, but will be live-streamed for all to see at www.hictv.com or <https://www.facebook.com/HonoluluCathedralBasilica>. They are as follows:

- Mass for the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker: Friday, May 1, 7:15 p.m. (with the prayer of the rosary at 6:00 p.m. and the rerun of the Renewal of the Consecration of Our Nation to Mary, the Mother of God at 6:30 p.m.)
- Mass for Fourth Sunday of Easter: May 3, 9:00 a.m.
- Mass for Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 10, 9:00 a.m.
- Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Easter: May 17, 9:00 a.m.
- Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord: May 24, 9:00 a.m.
- Mass for Pentecost Sunday: May 31, 9:00 a.m.

Please feel free to contact Deacon Modesto Cordero at the Office of Worship, 808-585-3342 or email at mcordero@rchawaii.org should you have any questions.

Our Lady of Peace, patroness of the Diocese of Honolulu, pray for us!

Blessings of the Easter season to you all!

DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
PRAYER FOR THE COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC
[by Bishop Larry Silva; March 12, 2020]

Dear God of all the living, you sent your Son Jesus to heal us from illness and sin. We turn to his healing power in this time of anxiety over the pandemic of this potentially deadly virus.

St. Damien and St. Marianne Cope dedicated their lives to service of those who had an infectious disease. St. Marianne Cope said, "I am not afraid of any disease," because she was confident of your power to

save. At the same time, she took prudent precautions of hygiene to assure that she and her Sisters would not be infected.

Let us learn from this example to put our trust in you to save us from the ravages of disease and to take prudent measures to prevent its spread. Guide us to know when to isolate ourselves from the possibility of infection, but never let anyone be left without the care and concern of others in the community.

As our Diocese of Honolulu has been dedicated to the Divine Mercy, we pray with confidence, “Jesus, I trust in you.”