



To Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful

29th January 2020

PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS – NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND INFLUENZA A

Concerns have been raised about a recent outbreak of Influenza A in Malaysia and the more recent novel coronavirus epidemic, which is believed to have originated in the Wuhan, China.

In the light of the current crisis, the three arch/bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Peninsular Malaysia, Archbishop Julian Leow of Kuala Lumpur, Bishop Sebastian Francis of Penang and Bishop Bernard Paul of Melaka-Johor, would like to make the following pastoral recommendations to avoid the spread of infection:

- A) Persons displaying flu-like symptoms, e.g. fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, cold, etc are advised to stay home and avoid public places including churches. For those not able to attend mass for these reasons, they are encouraged to make an act of spiritual communion (offer a prayer at home accompanied with a desire to be in union with the Eucharistic Lord).
- B) Prayers should be offered privately and in parishes for all the victims affected by the above epidemic and for the medical staff tasked with their care and treatment. The following intention may be included in the General Intercessions,

“For the victims of the coronavirus, people affected by the quarantine and shutdown of public facilities, the medical staff tasked with the treatment and care of those who have contracted the virus, that God may protect them from further harm and grant those who are sick, swift recovery. We pray to the Lord ...”

The local church will continue to closely monitor the development of the above situation in Malaysia and will issue further updates and guidelines, if and when it is deemed necessary.

The arch/bishops would like to call upon all the faithful to remain calm, to trust official announcements, and follow the general precautions issued by the Ministry of Health.

Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis, D.D.
Bishop of Penang

Most Rev. Julian Leow, D.D.
Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur

Rt. Rev. Bernard Paul, D.D.
Bishop of Malacca-Johore



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8th February 2020

ADDITIONAL PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS – WUHAN NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

As the number of confirmed cases of those who have been infected by the Wuhan Novel Coronavirus have increased unabated, the three arch/bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Peninsular Malaysia, Archbishop Julian Leow of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur, Bishop Sebastian Francis of the Diocese of Penang, and Bishop Bernard Paul of the Diocese of Melaka Johor have jointly agreed that the following additional precautions be observed in all parishes and mass centres from today:

1. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion, should only receive on the hands.
2. During the Sign of Peace, the faithful will express this by a simple bow and refrain from shaking hands.
3. Following the previous recommendations of the three arch/bishops dated 29th January 2020, we reiterate that persons exhibiting flu-like symptoms are exempted from Mass and should avoid other gatherings involving crowds or groups;
4. Holy water fonts are to be emptied.
5. Following health advisories, continue to practise good hygiene by washing hands with soap regularly and thoroughly. Priests and extraordinary ministers of holy communion are to take extra care in disinfecting hands before holy communion.

Let us continue to pray for those affected by this crisis and entrust all to the mercy and Providence of Almighty God.

Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis, D.D.
Bishop of Penang

Most Rev. Julian Leow, D.D.
Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur

Rt. Rev. Bernard Paul, D.D.
Bishop of Malacca-Johore