



THE TITULAR ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF PENANG DIOCESE OF PENANG

Catholic Diocesan Centre

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FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

Dear Clergy, Religious, Heads of Ministries and the Lay Faithful,

Re: Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) Phase in the Diocese of Penang

Post Pentecost Greetings of Joy, Mercy and Hope!

As you move deeper into Communion and Mission with all the limitations that we are experiencing beyond our control, I thank all of you for your patience, perseverance and determination in moving forward as the Body of Christ with the new normal. I am grateful for your presence, availability and intercessory prayers for all the people entrusted to your pastoral care.

In solidarity with all of you in the Diocese of Penang, we have submitted our application to the Federal Government with a request to open our churches, chapels and mass centres (where applicable) in Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Perak and Penang, totaling up to 98 premises, following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) advised by the authorities, for community worship and Mass. I wish to share with you that we are yet to receive an official reply to date and are still pending approval. These submissions can only be made through two bodies, namely the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) and the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM) under the big umbrella of the MCCBCHST.

The above remaining at status quo, there will be no Clergy Monthly Recollection (CMR) for the month of June. However, I encourage the three Deans in the respective deaneries, Msgr. Henry Rajoo, Msgr. Stephen Liew, Msgr. Aloysius Tan, to initiate online meetings/recollections at deanery level for the Northern Region, Perak and Penang Island, so as to get used to this process and the new normal until we are able to gather and resume the CMR in the usual manner. I hope we will be able to have the first CMR together with me in the month of July this year. I will keep you informed and updated on the progress of our application status.

With regards to the Feast of St. Anne, which is scheduled to be from 24th July 2020 to 2nd August 2020, I will be having a meeting with a committee in St. Anne on 16th June 2020 to discuss how we could celebrate this Feast in a meaningful way, following the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) and restrictions in place. Thereafter, I will make an announcement on 17th June 2020.

Let us continue to pray without ceasing for the situation in our country and for the whole world as I consecrate each one of you to the Precious Body and Blood of Christ, which Feast we will celebrate this weekend.

With the presence of the Holy Spirit, continue the mission that has been entrusted to you in Creative, Inclusive and Bridge-Building ways. Till we meet again. God bless you.

"Be Disciples of Hope"

Sincerely in Christ,

Sebastian Francis

**Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis
Bishop of Penang**

