



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: 2nd Notification and Updates in the Diocese of Penang

Greetings of Joy, Mercy and Hope!

I pray you are coping well thus far by the Grace of God. Here I wish to share with you additional notifications and updates in our diocese. The updates will be provided periodically through this same means from my office.

● **Item 1**

The Diocese of Penang has officially set up a **Diocesan ZOOM account** mainly for the use of the Bishop's Office, Diocesan Committees, Diocesan Institutions, and Diocesan Ministries. These mentioned could use the facility for meetings, formations, discussions, etc. As this is a shared ZOOM account, a booking form will need to be filled up, at least 2 weeks in advance, after which a confirmation email will be sent with details of the scheduled date and time for the session requested. Link for booking: <https://form.jotform.com/203059092048453>

It is hoped that this means of communication will be one way of engaging with one another in a safer manner, so as to continue our mission during this time when gatherings and meetings are restricted. I would also like to encourage all individual parishes in the Diocese of Penang to invest on other or similar means of communication for the outreach of the parish community.

● **Item 2**

All Diocesan meetings and gatherings beginning this month will be done online, namely:-

EVENT	DATE	TIME	PERSON IN CHARGE
Caritas Malaysia Online Launch & 1st National Assembly	6 & 13 Nov	9.00 am - 11.00 am	Fr. Joachim Robert
CHARIS Malaysia Exco	13-Nov	8.00 pm - 9.30 pm	Vincent Lim & Andre Ong
Council of Priests (COP)	17-Nov	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Msgr. Henry Rajoo
Penang Diocesan Pastoral Team (PDPT)	23-Nov	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Fr. Jude Miranda
Clergy Monthly Recollection (CMR)	24 & 25 Nov	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Fr. Victor Louis & Fr. Jude Miranda
Institute for New Evangelization Formation	24-Nov	8.45 pm - 10.00 pm	Simon Wong
Penang Diocesan Education Council (PDEC)	26-Nov	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Bernadette Teh

● **Item 3**

Rev. Fr. Rudy Wong who has been residing at the Home for the Aged (CWS) Simee, Ipoh has been transferred to the Little Sisters of the Poor (LSP) here in Penang with effect from 3rd November 2020. Please welcome him to the Clergy of Penang Island Deanery. I thank Mr. Vincent Lee and his team at Home for the Aged (CWS) Simee, for their care and services rendered to Fr. Rudy Wong during his stay there.

● **Item 4**

Rev. Fr. Andrew Stephen's study leave will be extended until July 2021 at HELP University, Kuala Lumpur.

● **Item 5**



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Rev. Fr. Martin Arlando has begun his Ecclesiastical Licentiate in Canon Law studies online with St. Paul University, Canada. He currently resides at St. Joachim's Spirituality Centre, Bukit Mertajam as priest on study leave.

● **Item 6**

Rev. Fr. Louis Loi who was sent on mission to accompany His Eminence Anthony Soter Cardinal Fernandez, D.D. since 1st September 2020, has returned safely to the Diocese of Penang. The Diocese of Penang, thanks him for remaining faithful to his mission and welcomes him back with open arms. The decision on his next assignment will be announce later.

● **Item 7**

The Diocese of Penang welcomes **Rev. Fr. John Anandan, OFM Cap** as Formator to the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (OFM Cap) at the St. Felix of Cantalice Friary in Tanjung Bungah, Penang effective 5th October 2020.

● **Item 8**

There will be an **Advent Christmas Kit**, prepared by the Diocese of Penang in Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin, Tamil and English to be used by families, household and small groups within the homes, in preparation for Advent and Christmas this year. This kit will be released to all on 20 November 2020, just before the Feast of Christ the King via electronic means. This Advent Christmas Kit is meant for all. Therefore, please disseminate it widely to everyone.

● **Item 9**

As the realities on the ground with regards to the COVID-19 situation is very volatile and diverse in all the 5 states and districts of the Diocese of Penang, I encourage the **parish priests to continue monitoring the situation constantly** and decide accordingly together with your leaders on measures to be taken especially for the liturgical services. Having said that, I humbly urge and encourage all **parishes who are allowed and able to open your churches to provide the liturgical and sacramental services**, while continuing to take the necessary precautions, **following the standard operating procedures advised by the civil and church authorities**. Always clarify with the local authorities concerned should there be any doubt. Please feel free to consult me if need be.

● **Item 10**

The Parish Priests in the **Penang Island Deanery** upon consultation with me, have suspended all public masses in the parishes located within the Penang Island from 7th Nov – 20th November 2020.

I take this opportunity to thank all priests and deacons who went to bless the graves and cemeteries of our faithful departed for All Souls Day and I thank you, my dear people of God, for your perseverance and faithfulness in remaining hopeful during this time of grace. Be assured of my prayers and solidarity with all of you as we journey together as one Body of Christ, remembering the call of Pope Francis, 'Fratelli Tutti'.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

"Be Disciples of Hope"

Sincerely in Christ,

Sebastian Francis

Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis
Bishop of Penang

