



10th January 2021

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Attention:

All the faithful Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Decisions regarding Liturgical matters taken by CBCMSB at their recent meeting

The Lord's blessings upon all as we begin this new year 2021.

We your bishops met recently online from the 04 – 08 January, 2021 for our assembly as the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei (CBCMSB). Among various matters at hand that we deliberated upon were some concerning the Liturgy.

- 1.1. On 13 May 2020, Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (CCDDS), wrote to Bishops' Conferences in relation to a change to the Trinitarian conclusion to the collects (opening prayers) in the *Roman Missal* (2010). The word "one" before God, in the English translation was felt could be misleading.
 - 1.1.1. Decision: The Bishops decided to maintain the formula used in all the sacramentary in the region, and just omit the word "one": "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever."
- 1.2. The Bible Sunday usually celebrated in July in this region is replaced with the celebration of the "Sunday of the Word of God" universally on the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 24 January 2021. It is devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God (cf. Pope Francis' Letter, *Motu proprio Aperit Illis*, 30 September 2019).
 - 1.2.1. Action taken: Based on the discussion among the bishops last year at the CBCMSB and the need to explain this change to the people, a statement was issued by Cardinal Cornelius Sim and the Regional Biblical Commission on 30 September 2020 on how this could be celebrated in our parishes. Translations of the statement were done in Tamil, Bahasa Malaysia and Mandarin. Likewise, a recent note from the CCDDS has been

sent to all the Bishops on 17 December, 2020. (All the above documents are attached with this letter).

1.3. The Chinese or Lunar New Year falls on Friday, 12 & Saturday 13 February 2021, and the celebration closes two weeks later on Friday, 26 February. Will the Conference consider dispensation from fast and abstinence during this period?

1.3.1. Decision: The Conference grants dispensation from abstinence to all the faithful celebrating the Chinese New Year in any way on the three consecutive Fridays, 12, 19 & 26 February. However, all are asked to observe the regular fast and abstinence for Ash Wednesday on 17 February.

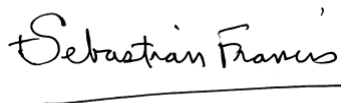
1.4. Error in the Ordo: Note that Mission Sunday, 2021 is on 24 October 2021, not on 17 October.

1.5. As Christmas Day is on Saturday 25 December 2021, all Masses on Saturday will be of the Nativity of the Lord.

1.5.1. Decision: The bishops agreed to the proposal that those who attend the evening Mass is considered to have fulfilled the Sunday obligation (26 December 2021, Feast of the Holy Family).

I hope the above is clear and helpful. If you need any further clarification you may contact your local parish priest or your bishop's office.

I remain, yours faithfully in Christ



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+ Rt. Rev. Bishop Sebastian Francis D.D.
President, CBCMSB
Bishop of Penang