

CHANCERY OF THE CATHOLIC METROPOLITAN ARCHDIOCESE OF KUALA LUMPUR

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Update on Protocols for Reopening Churches

With the commencement of the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) over Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan, and the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) over Pahang and Terengganu with effect from the 5th of March 2021, His Grace Archbishop Julian Leow D.D. after consulting the members of the Archdiocesan Crisis Management Task Force, has decreed that the protocols governing the reopening of churches, chapels and Mass centres should be updated in line with the MKN SOP for CMCO and RMCO both dated 4th March 2021.

1. All parishes may resume public Masses from the 13th of March 2021 (unless Masses have resumed earlier) with a capacity that should not exceed 30% of its original seating capacity to ensure that there is compliance of the minimum 1 metre distance between persons. All SOPs set out in the two MKN SOP dated 4th March 2021 and the Archdiocesan Guidelines for the Celebration of Sacraments are to be strictly observed.

2. Funerals, baptisms, weddings, and RCIA rites may continue to be celebrated whilst observing the requirements under paragraph 1.

3. Funeral parlours located within churches may be opened but wakes are not permitted. Visitors may pay a short visit (not exceeding 10 minutes) to offer personal prayer for the deceased or extend condolences and well wishes to the family.

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4. There shall be no penitential services but parishes within a district may collaborate to organise schedules for hearing confessions by the district clergy. Social distancing, non-crowding and the need to create a safe well-ventilated environment should be observed.

5. Holy communion for the homebound and elderly may be arranged by the Parish Priest or the Administrator whilst ensuring that both the minister of holy communion or communicant are not exposed to unnecessary risks. If home communion is to be distributed, the Archdiocesan Guidelines are to be strictly observed.



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6. Catechism classes, RCIA sessions, formations and meetings (except when a physical meeting is necessary) shall continue online until further notice.

7. Receptions, meals and fellowship on the church premises are not permitted.

8. All parishes, chapels and Mass centres should ensure that their premises are wellventilated and safe environments for worship. The faithful must be educated to avoid the 3 C's, namely crowded and confined spaces and close conversations; and practise the 3 W's, which is frequent washing of hands, wearing of face masks and observing watchful vigilance.

These protocols will be reviewed and updated from time to time as we continue to monitor the public health situation. Let us continue to pray for our front-liners and for victims of COVID 19.

Rev Fr Michael Chua Chancellor Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur ¥ NTEGRITY ENDERNE