



CHANCERY OF THE CATHOLIC METROPOLITAN ARCHDIOCESE OF KUALA LUMPUR

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Chan/MC/09/2021

CHANCERY NOTICE

Update on Public Health Safety Protocols

After a year of disruption and suspension of public Masses within the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur, His Grace, Archbishop Julian Leow D.D., in consultation with the medical members of the Archdiocesan Crisis Management Task Force, had allowed public Masses and the celebration of other sacraments and liturgical services to be resumed throughout the Archdiocese. With the resumption of Masses, our parishes were able to celebrate the Holy Week and Paschal Triduum liturgies in person.

As much as this has been a welcomed grace-filled moment, we recognise that our churches, chapels and Mass centres are not immune from COVID 19 which continues to plague our community. Since reopening, several churches have witnessed the emergence of sporadic cases of infection. As you are aware, the public health authorities have already predicted another surge in the weeks to come.

His Grace, Archbishop Julian Leow D.D., understanding that the Mass is the “source and summit of Christian life” and that the sacraments are channels of sanctifying grace which are most crucial to the spiritual nourishment of the faithful, has decided to keep our churches opened as long as it is safe to do so. His Grace, therefore, seeks the full cooperation of all parishes and the faithful to fully comply with the MKN SOPs, Archdiocesan Guidelines for Celebrating Sacraments and Chancery Updates on public health protocols (collectively known as “the public health protocols”). Full compliance with the public health protocols are necessary to ensure that our churches remain opened and safe spaces for worship and gathering.

With the emergence of sporadic positive cases in our churches in the last few weeks, His Grace would like to reiterate compliance with existing public health protocols and make these additional protocols to prevent the spread of infection within our communities:

1. All Parish Priests and Parish Response Teams are to review and update their respective parish protocols so as to be in FULL compliance with the public health protocols.



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2. His Grace would like to emphasise strict compliance with the protocols on “singing” (please refer to Item 3, Appendix C, Archdiocesan Guidelines on Celebrating Sacraments) as “singing” increases the reach and dispersion of air droplets beyond 2 metres. To minimise congregational singing, we would like to recommend that lyrics/ text of hymns not be projected and singing be done by only one or two cantors or pre-recorded.
3. To ensure that the space for gathering/ worship are well-ventilated.
4. To continue to keep a register of persons attending Masses, weddings, funerals and other services for purposes of contact tracing. This will facilitate an expeditious response in identifying close contacts and providing them with appropriate public health advisories.
5. Where possible, to ensure that assigned seats (by seating area or by pews/rows) are allocated for the purpose of identifying close contacts.
6. All Mass attendees (who are using this app) are required to show their scanned MySejahtera Check-in receipt at the registration counter. The parish has a right to turn away individuals whose scans show that they are in the “High Risk” (red) category.
7. All the faithful are to be both honest and charitable to consider their own health – both their potential to infect others and their susceptibility to infection. Parishioners or clergy who feel unwell or have flu-like symptoms should excuse themselves from attending Mass. Please be reminded that all the faithful are still dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

Let us continue to do our part to ensure that our churches, chapels and Mass centres are safe environments for public worship as we pray for an end to this pandemic.

Rev Fr Michael Chua
Chancellor
Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur