

**Important Notice of  
Catholic Diocese of Tainan**

Date: March 2, 2020  
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In view of the "Taiwan Minzi No. 10902222212" official document issued by the Ministry of the Interior on February 24, 2020 and the current "Coronavirus (COVID-19)" situation has not yet eased, this morning I invited the Parochial Vicar and the Chancellor of the Diocese, Fr. John Lee, to discuss with the Cathedral Pastor and the Worship Director Fr. Jianping Lo, and released this "important diocesan announcement." Based on the principle that "prevention is better than a cure", I ask all priests, chairperson of the pastoral council, and the leaders of ministries to pragmatically cooperate with the implementation. Education and social welfare organizations are also requested to cooperate with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and other government agencies in their orders and requests.

The important announcements are as follows:

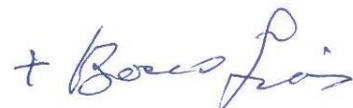
1. The Sunday Mass will be held in an outdoor open space (church yard, or parking lot) beginning March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Holy Triduum (The Three days) celebration (4 / 9 ~ 11) will also be held outdoors. A parish without an outdoor facility will be exempted from the Sunday and Holy Triduum celebrations. However, if you can, please go to your nearest parish where outdoor masses can be held. For those who are unable to attend an outdoor mass, please do the family prayer and Bible readings and meditation on Sundays. You can also go to the website of the Taipei Archdiocese or Taichung Diocese for online Sunday Mass.
2. Regarding how to celebrate Easter (4/12) Sunday and Sunday masses after Easter, the diocese will announce it right before Palm Sunday (4/5).
3. The monthly retreat (3/12) for priests will be suspended.
4. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Holy Thursday morning, also known as the priest's day, Cathedral. Please follow staffs' instructions on where to park your vehicle. The priest's communion meal will be cancelled that day. Instead, lunch boxes will be distributed. In the evening, the Washing of the feet will be held during the Lord's Supper liturgy. Each priest, please consider shortening the gathering time as much as possible for the congregation. If it is held, use a blessing instead of kissing. After completing the liturgy, in addition to washing

the hands with soap, the celebrant should also wash again with alcohol. The washing feet Towels should be prepared for each person to use and cannot be shared.

5. The mass in foreign languages (parishes and factories) within the diocese will be cancelled, but the priest will still retain the service of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
6. The joint Lenten retreat (3/7), sponsored by the Diocesan pastoral council, and the live of the Stations of the Cross will be cancelled. Parishes and volunteer groups; please evaluate all the activities before Easter. The leaders and groups are required to carefully evaluate if supporting measures for an epidemic prevention is good enough or not. Please notify the parish as soon as possible and announce the results yourself.
7. The Bishop will celebrate a spring memorial service instead of memorial mass for April at the Eternal Light Cemetery. The service will be about 10-15 minutes. After the memorial service, the assigned priests will sprinkle the Holy water for the ancestors in the arranged area. For other church cemeteries, please refer to the diocese practices.
8. Daily masses can still be celebrated within the churches. Regular meetings can also be held as usual. But everyone must implement personal hygiene protection, consistently check your temperature, and use hand sanitizer as much as possible.

In order to prevent the church from becoming the breach of epidemic prevention due to ceremonies, the parish should also play its due role to society. Although there are many suspensions of group activities, it does not mean that our spiritual interaction with God is also suspended. Please use the greatest degree of coordination and prayer to diminish this epidemic as soon as possible.

**Catholic Diocese of Tainan**



**Bishop Bosco Lin Chi-nan**