

Thursday 19th March 2020

Memorandum re. Suspension of Masses

Good Afternoon All,

Please be advised that due to the restrictions being placed upon us to help stop the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we are taking the direction given to us by the Government and have made the decision to suspend Masses.

This new directive responds to the Prime Minister's expressly communicated ban on non-essential gatherings and any face to face meetings.

The people in our remote communities are among the most vulnerable with many experiencing serious medical conditions of one type or another. It's up to all of us to ensure our communities remain safe. This also applies of course to all vulnerable members of our larger community.

We believe strongly that as a Diocese we have a responsibility to all our parishioners and indeed to the community to play our part in ensuring that our communities are as safe as they can be.

To that end and with much regret we have suspended all Masses in Broome effective from this weekend 21st March for the next two weekends. In other Parishes and Communities if your community numbers fall below the Governments required number restrictions and you make sure that social distancing is applied (1.5 metres apart, except in families), you may still hold Sunday Mass.

- Temporary Suspension of the Public Celebration of the Mass - To be at your own discretion and in line with the Government's restrictions in relation to numbers of attending Mass inside to be no higher than 100.
- The Sunday Obligation for the Faithful will not apply during this time of emergency.
- *Mass on Demand* (online) and *Mass for You at Home* (television) to be suggested to your parishioners.
- Accessibility to Churches: Parish Priests and Administrators in consultation with their communities of worship and the directives of Public Health advice, will put in place provisions for Churches to remain open for private prayer, with the possibility of Eucharistic Adoration.
- Confessions can either be celebrated in the church or outside the confessional in a quiet place.
- Anointing of the sick will still be available, when praying please place your hands above the head.
- Funerals Masses will still be possible at an appropriate place outside with social distancing applied.
- The Celebration of Baptisms and Weddings with appropriate precautions, according to the Governments requirements for inside gatherings.
- The Diocese will issue more specific instructions regarding the Holy Week and Easter liturgical celebrations at a later date.

Monsignor Paul Boyers
Diocesan Director
Chancery
DIOCESE OF BROOME
13 Barker Street (PO Box 76)
Broome WA 6725

Ph: (08) 9192 1060