



SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF MISSISSAUGA

For the Glory of God

No. 26/2020

March 14, 2020

Circular

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Together with all Canadians, the Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Mississauga is following with deep concern the current developments in Canada and throughout the world regarding the rapid spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our primary concern is the spiritual and physical health of the people, especially the most vulnerable among us.

This new virus is understandably a source of anxiety and fear for many. Practical information on responding to the virus and mitigating its spread is available from local public health officials, as well as from the federal and provincial governments, and should be heeded. We have provided several updates and precautionary measures on last weekend in this regard. It is our duty to avoid all the circumstances that may cause the spread of this pandemic virus. So, please follow all the directives from the Federal, Provincial, City and Health Departments. Yesterday, March 13, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer directed to cancel any gathering larger than 250 people. Many other provinces and cities have different directives regarding the number.

Taking into consideration our whole-Canada geographical jurisdiction I recommend the following remedial measures:

1. The Holy Qurbana is the source and summit of the Christian life. (Lumen gentium, no.11). However, realizing that a number of parishes will have the difficulty in keeping the attendance below 250 this Sunday, March 15, I regrettably ask our Parish priests of Ontario province to cancel Sunday Holy Qurbana.
2. Parish priests in other provinces are requested to follow the directives of the local Catholic Bishops and Civil authorities.
3. For this weekend and any other which may be required, I grant the faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation to attend the Holy Qurbana.
4. Weekday Holy Qurbana schedules should remain untouched to allow the faithful to receive the sacraments and to be strengthened their spiritual life and empower others in their service for the most vulnerable among us.

5. After this weekend we will assess this decision for next weekend, and any other that is required, after consulting health officials.
6. At this time of special vigilance, I strongly urge everyone to be very cautious about their interactions with one another and to practice good hygiene (washing the hands, covering the mouth when cough etc.) I ask that those who are sick, feeling unwell or vulnerable to sickness, refrain from attending Holy Qurbana at present.
7. During this period of suffering let us focus on special spiritual empowerment. Therefore, I strongly urge you to keep from March 15, Sunday to April 19, Divine Mercy Sunday as special prayer days for saving the whole world from Coronavirus (COVID-19). Special days are allotted to each parish and mission in our Eparchy. (The list of parishes and Missions are attached). You may have Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, reading and meditation of the Word of God etc. according to the convenience of the parish and individual situation.

We will soon be celebrating Easter-Christ's triumph over death as the Lord of Life and the source of everlasting hope. The spread of the COVID-19 virus is a moment for Catholics to offer special prayers of intercessions for the healing of those infected, for the protection of the elderly and for the prevention of the disease's spread.

We entrust our people, our country and the whole world to the powerful and maternal intercession of Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and ours.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Mar Jose Kalluvelil', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mar Jose Kalluvelil

Bishop of Mississauga

CHAIN PRAYER TO EXTERMINATE CORONA VIRUS

Date	Days	Parish
March 15-17	Sunday - Tuesday	St. Alphonsa Cathedral, Mississauga
March 18-20	Wednesday - Friday	St. Thomas Forane Church Scarborough
March 21 - 23	Saturday - Monday	St. Alphonsa Forane Church Edmonton
March 24-26	Tuesday - Thursday	St. Mother Teresa Church Calgary
March 27-29	Friday - Sunday	St. Mary's Church London
March-30	Monday	St. Joseph's Church Hamilton
March -31	Tuesday	St. Kuriakose Elias Church, Charlottetown, PE
April 1	Wednesday	St. Mary's Knanaya Toronto, Ajax and London
April 2	Thursday	Holy Family Church, Halifax and Sydney
April 3	Friday	Berwick and Lunenburg
April 4	Saturday	St. Jude's Church, Winnipeg, Ashern, Brandon
April 5	Sunday	St. John Paul II Church Regina, Moosejaw, Yorkton and Swift Current
April 6	Monday	Christ the King Church Saskatoon, N. Battleford and Lloydminster
April 7	Tuesday	St. Alphonsa Church Vancouver, Prince George, Abbots Ford and Victoria
April 8	Wednesday	St. Alphonsa Church, Cambridge
April 9-12	Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Sunday	All
April 13-14	Monday, Tuesday	Grand Prairie, Grimshaw, McLennan, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, High Level and Fort MacMurray
April 15	Wednesday	Oshawa, Belleville, Kingston
April 16	Thursday	St. Mother Teresa Church, Niagara
April 17-18	Friday, Saturday	St. Mother Teresa Church Ottawa and Montreal
April 19	Divine Mercy Sunday (Puthunjayar)	Concluding Session- All