

CATHOLIC KYOTO DIOCESE

Catholic Chancery Office
Kawaramachi Sanjo Agaru
Nakagyo-ku, KYOTO,
604-8006 JAPAN
TEL: -81-75-211-3025
FAX: -81-75-211-3041

カトリック京都司教区
〒604-8006
京都市中京区河原町三条上ル
TEL:(075)211-3025
FAX:(075)211-3041
e-mail:curia@kyoto.catholic.jp

Kyo.Prot.N.89/2020

New Coronavirus Pandemic Bulletin, No. 8

Restrictions on Masses and Other Gatherings during the Christmas and New Year Holidays

To my Sisters and Brothers in the Kyoto Diocese:

The Kyoto Diocese resumed church activities such as Mass from October 1, but now it is time to plan for Christmas and New Year's parish activities.

Each year many visitors participate in the Christmas and New Year Masses, making it an opportunity for evangelization. However, this year in addition to the instructions in Bulletin 7, the following four measures must be followed to prevent the spread of infection. Please take sufficient measures according to the size and circumstances of the parish to avoid crowding and poor ventilation.

1. Exemption from the obligation to participate in the Mass on holydays of obligation

In addition to the Lord's Day (Sunday), everyone in the diocese is exempt from the obligation to attend Mass on the holydays of obligation: The Nativity of the Lord and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

2. Prior notice to the public

Please use the parish notice board, homepage, etc. as soon as possible to notify the public that admission to Christmas and New Year's Masses will be restricted as a measure against Covid infection.

Also, please refrain from holding events such as Christmas concerts for the public.

3. Limiting the number of Mass participants

There are ways to limit Mass participants to those who have registered in advance. Please consider using them in each parish.

I once again ask that you not go searching for a Mass to attend in a parish church other than your own.

Please do not hold parties that involve eating and drinking.

4. Some changes

Seats in the church should be at least one meter, and preferably two meters, apart from each other.

Family members who are currently living together may be seated together.

✠ Paul Yoshinao Otsuka
Bishop of Kyoto
October 23, 2020