



THE TITULAR ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF PENANG DIOCESE OF PENANG

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PASTORAL LETTER ON HOLY WEEK 2020 FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

My Dear People of God,

I thank you for your prayerful solidarity in embracing the whole world through personal and communal initiatives in this time of challenge and uncertainty.

In view of the stricter measures on the Movement Control Order (MCO) effective 1st April 2020, I will not be live-streaming any more masses including masses for the Holy Week. Nevertheless, I assure you of my prayers and blessings in my private Masses celebrated each day. Other available alternatives for live-streaming masses are widely accessible at your disposal.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with Jesus in our midst, I gift you the **“Holy Week Kit 2020”**. This kit is aimed to journey with you during the significant days of Holy Week as a family and household. May this new experience of Holy Week this year be a time to strengthen your Baptismal Identity as sharers in the Ministry of Christ: Priest, Prophet (Teachers) and King (Servant/Administrator).

For the General Absolution (*absolution for those repenting for their sins but unable to go for confession*), based on Canon 961 and the moral principle of *epikeia*, solely for this particular time of the pandemic, I, as your Bishop, will give a **General Absolution** to all Catholics in the Diocese of Penang (Kedah, Perlis, Perak, Kelantan, Penang) on **Good Friday at 3.00 pm** following the below mentioned conditions:-

- a) To heartily repent of all sins
- b) To venerate a cross that is available to you (can also be rosary, pendant) or if you do not have a cross, you may venerate the cross in your heart.
- c) To say seven (7) times, **“Lord Jesus, be Merciful to me a sinner”** which serves as your penance.

On that Good Friday (10 April 2020), shortly after the above time mentioned, I will impart on you the following words of Absolution by the Authority bestowed upon me, **“God the Father of Mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of His Son has Reconciled the world to Himself. Through the Ministry of the Church, may God give you Pardon and Peace and I absolve you from all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**. **“AMEN”**

Wishing you a Spirit-filled Holy Week with the Lord and the Joy and Blessings of the Great Easter.

“Be Disciples of Hope”

Sincerely in Christ,

Sebastian Francis

**Rt. Rev. Sebastian Francis
Bishop of Penang**

