



THE TITULAR ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF PENANG DIOCESE OF PENANG

Catholic Diocesan Centre

290 Macalister Road, 10450 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.

Tel: +604-2292761 / 2292742 Fax: +604-2285671

E-mail: trcb@pgdiocese.org / penangdiocese@gmail.com

Website: www.pgdiocese.org

21 September 2020

PKK/BDN/2020/09/056

Dear Clergy, Religious, Heads of Ministries and the Lay Faithful,

Re: Updated Guidelines in the Diocese of Penang following the Extended Recovery Movement Control Order

Greetings of Joy, Mercy and Hope!

Pursuant to the extension of the Recovery Movement Control Order which will be until 31st December 2020, please be informed on the updated guidelines for the Diocese of Penang with effect from 1st October 2020 while consciously and diligently maintaining the current Standard Operating Procedures that are already in place.

These include limiting the number of attendees to one third of the venue capacity, undergoing temperature screening and registration before entering for contact tracing, downloading MySejahtera application which is compulsory, proper sanitization before and after gathering, adequate physical distancing from one person to another and refraining from any participation (in-person) if feeling unwell and are prone to illness.

As a safety measure, the Ministry of Health continues to urge the **avoidance of the 3Cs – Crowded Places, Confined Spaces, Close Conversation** and the **frequent practice of the 3Ws – Wash Hands, Wear Facemasks, Warning** on the prevailing existence of COVID-19.

Having said that, the below guidelines although being implemented, will constantly need to be reviewed and consulted with the local authorities depending on the situation at the different states and respective districts.

- Daily Masses, Funerals, Weddings, Baptism of Adults, and Confirmation in churches may resume.
- Catechism Classes, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) sessions, Formations and Meetings may resume in consultation with the Parish Priest.
- Parishioners who are 70 years and above; and children who are 12 years and below although not encouraged, are not to be prohibited from attending. This includes those from diverse nationalities.
- The various places of worship would still be subject to additional conditions imposed by the State authorities. (Please check with your respective states and districts).

Parishes are encouraged to proceed with the above guidelines, following the requirements of the Standard Operating Procedure already in place. It is strongly advised that the congregation of each essential gathering should be done in a creative, inclusive and bridge-building way, considering the common good of all.

I wish you God's blessings as we gradually make a conscious effort to accept this new normal of resuming our lives as a community with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, while embracing fully in prayer those who are still unable to be present.

"Be Joyful in Hope, Patient in Affliction, Faithful in Prayer" (Roman 12:12)

"Be Disciples of Hope"

Sincerely in Christ,

Sebastian Francis

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

