



MEMO

TO: The Clergy, Religious and Lay faithful

FROM: The Apostolic Administrator

SUBJECT: Guidelines as Preventive Measures against the spread of the new Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Following the recent outbreak of the New Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the world which has now been declared as a Pandemic, I hereby provide the following guidelines as preventive measures against the spread of the same within the confines of our Diocese:

1. The guidance provided at all times by the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of Health must be considered with the seriousness it deserves. To this effect, parish priests and other relevant authorities in our Catholic institutions should ensure that only official and verified information is shared to the people entrusted to their care.
2. To maintain high levels of hygiene standards both at personal and institutional levels in the Diocese. This include the provision of adequate and accessible facilities for hand hygiene and sanitation; such as water, soap and alcohol based hand sanitizers.
3. **Weekday and Sunday Masses.**
Weekday and Sunday Masses may be celebrated at different hours throughout the day, while avoiding huge attendance at each Mass. The duration of each Mass shall not exceed 90 minutes. Parish priests are encouraged to consider introducing “pre-festive” Masses.
4. **Wedding and funeral Masses.**
Wedding and funeral Masses shall be celebrated with not more than 50 people in attendance. In each case, hygiene guidelines shall be strictly observed.
5. **Holy Week and Easter Season celebrations.**

The following shall be observed during the Holy Week celebrations:

- a. **Palm Sunday**

There will be no public procession with palms on Passion Sunday. The Second or Third Form of celebrating Passion Sunday as prescribed in the Roman Missal may be used.

b. **Chrism Mass.**

Only priests and Cathedral parishioners shall attend the celebration of Chrism Mass.

c. **Conferral of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation.**

The said sacraments shall not be conferred on many candidates in one celebration. Parish priests are advised to spread the celebration of the same sacraments throughout the Easter season.

6. **Eucharistic and other liturgical/para-liturgical celebrations.**

During Eucharistic and other liturgical/para-liturgical celebrations, the following specific guidelines shall be observed until further notice:

- a. The physical exchange of the sign of peace through handshake or hug is forthwith suspended.
- b. Holy Communion shall be received reverently on the hand ONLY.
- c. Priests, deacons and all extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must wash their hands thoroughly with soap and running water before and after the distribution of the Holy Eucharist.
- d. During concelebrated Masses, only the main celebrant shall drink from the chalice. The other concelebrants shall receive Holy Communion by intinction.
- e. Public veneration of relics and the crucifix shall not be done by kissing or physically touching them.
- f. Prolonged durations for liturgical assemblies shall be avoided.

7. **Small Christian Community and Lay Group meetings.**

All small Christian community and lay group meetings are suspended until further notice.

8. **Holy water fonts.**

Holy water fonts at church entrances should be drained and kept dry. In case of necessity, holy water for private use by the faithful shall be obtained from the priests at their respective parishes.

9. **Travels.**

Movements of the faithful from one parish to the other for various gatherings or celebrations are forthwith suspended. In case of grave necessity, an express

permission shall be sought through the office of the Diocesan Pastoral Director. However, unnecessary gatherings shall always be avoided.

10. **Personal responsibility.**

Anyone with manifest symptoms of COVID-19 must immediately seek medical assistance, and abstain from participating in all liturgical or public gatherings until they are healed.

11. In this very trying period of crisis, let us all make recourse to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus Christ, for our Diocese and the nation at large.



Most Rev. Dr. Alick Banda
Apostolic Administrator -
Catholic Diocese of Ndola.



20th March 2020