

Mt Carmel Church

81 A Chapel Road, Bandra, Mumbai 400 050

Dear Parishioners...

This is indeed an unprecedented situation that we are facing...

Yesterday we heard the appeal of the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, requesting for a responsible response to the situation in the country and in the world... We were exhorted to be sensitive to the situation and to ensure that the usual instructions given are followed, especially about social distancing. He called for a **Janata Curfew from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday, 22nd March.**

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias has also appealed to the Catholics of the Archdiocese to maintain a sense of calm and to pray at home with the family. **He has instructed that all public masses in our churches in the Archdiocese be cancelled from mid-night tonight i.e. Friday, March 20, 2020 to Saturday, April 4, 2020 (on the eve of Palm Sunday) till further notice.**

Please note that there will be no public masses in Mt Carmel's Church from March 21st to April 4th...

This is in addition to the other cancellation of meetings, stations of the cross, missions, etc as requested by His Eminence earlier...

We will try to stream the masses via Youtube, details and timings will be communicated to you, along with the instructions about the suggested etiquette required to be followed in such situations. The Cardinal will be celebrating Mass at 9.00 am at Holy Name Cathedral on Sunday, March 22nd which will be live streamed on YouTube and the Archdiocesan website...

Till details of the live streaming of masses are made available here is the list of the links offering mass daily

You may click on any of the following Weblinks to view and participate in Holy Masses,

Daily Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at Santa Marta

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/taglist.chiesa-e-religioni.Chiesa.messa.html>

Daily Mass on EWTN

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings>

Daily Mass at St. Mary's Church Dubai

<https://saintmarysdubai.org/live> (Live stream at fixed times) <https://saintmarysdubai.org/mass-schedule>

Mass on Catholic TV

<http://www.catholictv.org/>

Lenten Confessions will not be heard, and only if the situation gets better we will announce new dates.

If there is a funeral then we will have to be careful about the number of mourners attending the service which should not be more than the prescribed 50 as per police instructions...

The Church will be kept open for prayer from **9.00 am -12 noon and 4.00 to 6.00 pm daily**... the Adoration Chapel will be kept closed.

The party and picnic for the Sunday School children stands cancelled...

Keeping in mind the messages from our spiritual and political leaders, we must understand that this grave situation will surely be dealt with through our own self-imposed curfew, especially for the sake of keeping a healthy distance so that the virus has minimum chance of spreading...

Let's use this opportunity to pray - as individuals, together as a family, enjoy leisure together and avoid moving out unless necessary...

Let us also keep our ears and eyes wide open in concern for our elders who maybe unwell or alone and without caregivers... if there are needs to be met please contact the Parish Priest..

Let us be careful about venturing out on **Sunday, March 22nd** unless necessary and at 5.00 pm, as we ring our Church bells, let us whisper a prayer for all our unsung heroes like doctors, nurses, paramedic staff, researchers and caregivers who have been working tirelessly to contain the effects of the deadly virus.

May each one of us be responsible in our response towards the destruction of CO-VID19!

Fr Reuben Tellis
Parish Priest
Mt Carmel, Bandra