



**Most Rev. Ambrose Rebello**  
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To,  
All the Priests, Religious  
& the Faithful  
Diocese of Aurangabad

Sub: Directives/ Guidelines to avoid the spread of Corona Virus

My Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and the Faithful in the Diocese of Aurangabad,

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the President of the CBCI has sent a circular with directives and guidelines to be followed by the Church in India to control the spread of Corona Virus Pandemic.

Electronic and Print Media have reported that one individual has been tested positive for Covid - 19 in Aurangabad. Therefore, as responsible citizens, we need to take all the precautions; follow the directives of the CBCI and cooperate with Government Authorities, to stop the spread of the virus and to bring people's life to normalcy.

I am sending you some directives and guidelines, to be followed in the diocese till March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 or until further notification:

1. In this hour, let's turn to Mary, our heavenly Mother, to intercede with God to bring an end to this pandemic. A prayer to Mary, Health of the Sick, is enclosed along with this circular. Let this prayer go up to Mary from every church, chapel and home. May she intervene and stand between the humans and God, as the most powerful mediator to bring healing upon the affected, stop the virus from inflicting suffering on any person and protect the medical staff who are treating the persons with corona virus.
2. Please keep the Blessed Sacrament exposed for adoration from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and encourage people to come and pray silently. Please avoid the presence of many people at a time.
3. Please cancel all the Yatras, Celebrations of Feasts, Lenten Missions, Recollections, Retreats etc., to avoid gathering of the people.
4. To ensure that many people do not gather in the Church at one time, please celebrate many Holy Masses on Sundays at sufficient intervals and ask the people to keep safe distance from each other.
5. Please ask people not to shake hands at the sign of peace but to greet each other with folded hands (Namaste) and in general, people should avoid shaking hands.



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6. Please give Holy Communion in single species in the hand only.
7. Before the distribution of Holy Communion to the people, the Priests/Minsters will purify their hands with sanitizer.
8. Discourage people from kissing/ touching the images and statues. They may bow their heads to show their reverence.
9. Please keep the Holy water stoops dry.
10. If anyone has come in contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Corona Virus please ensure that the person is asked to avoid coming for Mass, Novena, Way of the Cross, where many congregate.
11. At first sight of any of the symptoms of the virus, advise them to seek immediate medical assistance

All these are temporary measures and will be reviewed from time to time until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. In the meantime, kindly advise people not to panic, but to give full support to the Government Authorities and to follow their directives strictly for the welfare of everyone.

With assurance of prayer for the protection of Mary, Health of the Sick and God's blessings upon each one of you,

Yours in Lord Jesus

+ *Ambrose*

Bishop Ambrose Rebello

