



CHANCERY OF THE CATHOLIC METROPOLITAN ARCHDIOCESE OF KUALA LUMPUR

528, Jalan Bukit Nanas, 50250 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: 603-2078 8828/ 2078 5089/ 2072 6606 | Fax: 603-2031 3815
chancery@archkl.org | www.archkl.org

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CHANCERY NOTICE

Confirmed Covid-19 Case in our Catholic Community

1.0 We confirm that a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLOG), Puchong has been tested positive for Covid-19. She had been asked by her office to undergo a test on Tuesday, 3rd of March 2020, and was informed yesterday, 5th of March 2020, of the test results. She has been admitted to Sungai Buloh Hospital.

2.0 We are waiting for more details and further direction from the Ministry of Health (MOH). We anticipate that the MOH will begin the exercise of contact tracing and both the parish and the Archdiocese will offer our fullest cooperation to expedite this matter.

3.0 In the meantime, the parish priest of OLOG, Fr Albet Arockiasamy has already alerted his parishioners of the above case and has begun to conduct preliminary contact tracing. Fr Albet has also informed his parishioners, especially those who have been identified as having had close contact with the patient to undergo testing, to isolate themselves from any public activities, and monitor their health for the next 14 days. He is prepared to implement any further measures required by the Ministry of Health.

4.0 OLOG parish has conducted a thorough cleaning and sanitisation of the church and pews. The Church is safe and will be open for masses this weekend.

5.0 We reiterate once again that the Catholic Church is committed to ensure the safety of parishioners within the parameters set by the Ministry of Health and recommendations of medical experts. We have and we will continue to monitor closely the current rapidly changing situation. In the meantime, the Archbishop would request that parishes adhere to the pastoral recommendations of the letters dated 29th of January and 8th of February 2020 from the three arch/bishops of the arch/dioceses of Peninsular Malaysia and the Chancery Notices dated 4th and 5th of March 2020.

6.0 In the press statement issued by Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Director of Health, Ministry of Health, on the 5th of March, it was recommended that any organisation with a person affected by a positive Covid-19 case need not close their office or shut down operations.

7.0 In consultation with our medical advisors and having taken all necessary measures recommended by the Ministry of Health to date, the Archdiocese has decided to allow all Masses in the parishes to proceed as normal. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of and the spiritual benefit derived from the sacraments, especially during a crisis. Although public penitential services have been suspended on grounds of public health safety to both priest-confessors and penitents, individual confessions are still available in parishes (before masses and by appointment). As the situation remains fluid, we will continue to monitor its development and review our safety protocols from time to time.

8.0 His Grace, Most Reverend Julian Leow, has commissioned a special crisis task force comprising clergy, medical doctors and Chancery staff, to help monitor the development of this crisis, to address issues more expeditiously, and to review and recommend safety guidelines for the local church. Enquires from the public will be channelled to this task force via the Archdiocesan Media Office.

9.0 In order to avoid unnecessary fear and, panic, we call upon all Catholics to refrain from disseminating unverified news and information on Covid-19. Kindly contact the Archdiocesan Media Office at mediaoffice@archkl.org for verification of any news report.

10.0 The Archbishop has requested for us to intensify our prayers and invoke God's protection and care for His people. Let us continue to pray for those who have been infected by Covid-19, their family members, and health care personnel.



Rev Fr Michael Chua
Chancellor
Archdiocesan Chancery
528 Jalan Bukit Nanas
Kuala Lumpur