



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

To: All Members of the Diocese of Honolulu
From: Bishop Larry Silva
Date: October 13, 2020
Subject: Invitation to return to Mass and extended dispensation from obligation

Aloha, Sisters and Brothers! Peace be with you!

This year of 2020 has brought us many unprecedented experiences and major adjustments to our lives and livelihoods due to the coronavirus pandemic. While we must not let down our guard and continue to observe prudent hygiene measures, we also want to look optimistically to the future.

With Advent and Christmas coming, it is very important that we prepare ourselves well for these high holy days in which we celebrate the great gift of the Word of God taking flesh and dwelling among us. Therefore, I ask all the parishes to plan their Advent and Christmas schedules in such a way as to accommodate as many people as possible throughout these days.

Since mid-March through October 31, 2020 I have issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **I am hereby extending that dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation through December 31, 2020. As I do so, however, I urge everyone who is able to return to Mass, without undue risks to their health or the health of others, to do so.**

Please note that in the Diocese of Honolulu, besides all Sundays, the holy days of obligation are the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, December 8; and Christmas on Friday, December 25. Again, while all are dispensed from the obligation of attending, I urge you to do so if you can.

It is highly recommended that those who do avail themselves of the dispensation substitute some other prayer experience so that worship of God does not lose its primary focus in our lives. One could do a home holy hour, pray the rosary, celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, or do some reading of spiritual books and articles, especially the lives of the saints. Of course, we also encourage anyone who cannot attend Mass to watch a live-streamed Mass. Sites are posted on our diocesan website at www.catholichawaii.org.

We encourage everyone to reach out to those who may not hear this message on their own and invite them to “Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!”