



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

FURTHER EASING MEASURES FOR CHURCH RELATED ACTIVITIES

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings of peace. With the transition to a long-term COVID-19 management strategy, and in consultation with the Archdiocesan Crisis Task Force, we are pleased to announce that we are now in a position, based on the best available public health advice, to lift more of our restrictions for church-related events, including worship, social gatherings and meetings.

This is a time to give thanks for the phase that we are in, where our churches are able to resume in many areas to provide more opportunities for the spiritual needs of its people. We are grateful to God and to all of you in the Archdiocese for your extraordinary compliance and forbearance for the last two years with all the guidelines and protocols we had to put in place to keep each other safe.

The highlights of these changes include RESUMPTION of the following with effect from Sunday, 5 June 2022:

1. In-Person Catechism & RCIA Classes

Parishes will be allowed to resume in-person catechism and RCIA classes. In parishes where the infrastructure is limited and space is not optimal for ventilation, it is recommended that smaller classes be held on a rotational basis (alternate weeks) or at different timings to avoid overcrowding. The Parish Catechetical Team in consultation with the Parish Priest is to ensure the readiness of classrooms and facilities for a safe return.

2. Parish Meetings

Face-to-face meetings will be allowed where all attendees must remain masked when meetings are held indoors and the meeting duration should be kept short. Good ventilation in the designated meeting areas must be prioritised.

3. BEC Gatherings

BEC gatherings in homes can now resume in small numbers with the wearing of masks required throughout the gathering. If food or drinks are served, it is strongly recommended that this be done in open spaces e.g. home garden, open porch, larger halls, function rooms, etc.

4. Shared Meals

Where meals are provided at meetings or gatherings, packed food is recommended. Where gatherings involve only a small number of people, it is encouraged that the food is served in open spaces or large rooms with good ventilation.

5. Congregational Singing at Mass:

Congregational singing will now be permitted while remaining masked.

6. Holy Communion to the Homebound:

- a) With the permission of the Parish Priest, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) may bring the Holy Eucharist to members of the Parish who are not able to attend Mass while observing all necessary precautions.
- b) Where possible, meet the homebound person in a well-ventilated space and limit the duration spent at each home. If either the EMHC or the homebound person is unwell, kindly refrain from visiting to avoid exposure and any undue risks of virus transmission.

As we move forward together, we continue to err on the side of caution, upholding our commitment to protect each other and the most vulnerable amongst our faith community. Let us remain mindful that our actions should be firmly guided by these fundamental principles at all time:

(i) Wearing of Face Masks:

Mask-wearing remains mandatory while indoors and strongly encouraged for outdoor gatherings, especially when there is a crowd. High-risk and vulnerable individuals are strongly advised to be masked at all times.

(ii) Maintaining Hand-hygiene:

Frequent handwashing with soap and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers is strongly recommended.

(iii) Ensuring Good Ventilation and Air Filtration:

Good ventilation protects against the spread of COVID-19. It replaces indoor air with outdoor air, which can reduce the number of infectious particles indoors. Air filtration can also help by removing particles from the air (See APPENDIX 1).

(iv) Regulating Self:

If you feel unwell, especially with flu-like symptoms (cough, cold, runny nose, fever), kindly stay away from public gatherings even if you have tested negative for COVID-19.

The Archdiocese wishes to remind that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation continues for the time being. However, those who are able should make the effort to attend Mass in person.

While our parishes seek to welcome the return of parishioners with the resumption of faith activities, let us together support each other with a sense of welcome and kindness and provide positive experiences. As we strive to ensure that our parishes remain safe for all, we continue to pray for protection, for healing, for generosity of spirit, and for one another.

Clarence Devadass

**Rev Fr Dr Clarence Devadass
Chancellor
Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur**



APPENDIX 1



Good ventilation protects you from COVID-19 infection

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads easily in indoor and poorly ventilated settings. Ventilation means bringing fresh, outdoor air inside and letting indoor air outside.

<p>Good ventilation</p>  <p>Open a window!</p>	<p>Better ventilation</p>  <p>Open windows/doors on opposite sides of the room to create a cross breeze.</p>	<p>Better ventilation with one window</p>  <p>Place a pedestal fan in front of the window, facing the outside.</p>	<p>When it's too hot/cold to leave windows open</p>  <p>Open windows for a few minutes each hour to bring in fresh air.</p>
<p>When using a fan</p>  <p>Always open windows and doors when using a fan. Running a fan in a closed space can increase the spread of the virus.</p>	<p>When using an air conditioner (wall/window)</p>  <p>Open windows for a few minutes every hour. Most wall and window air conditioners increase the spread of the virus by recirculating indoor air.</p>	<p>When using centralized air conditioning</p>  <p>Use settings that increase the amount of outdoor air pulled into the system. Make sure the system is regularly inspected, maintained, and cleaned.</p>	
<p>When using an air filter</p>  <p>Air filters do not replace ventilation, but they can help reduce the possibility of transmission. Continue to open windows for a few minutes every hour to bring in fresh air.</p>	<p>When using air conditioning in a vehicle</p>  <p>Use the setting that brings in fresh air. Settings that circulate the inside air can increase the spread of the virus.</p>		
<p>In public spaces</p> 			<p>When you are in a public space where you cannot open a window and you do not know if the space is well ventilated, spend as little time in the space as possible, maintain a physical distance of at least 1 metre from others, wear a mask, clean hands frequently, and get vaccinated as soon as it is your turn.</p> 