

**The 20th LETTER OF THE BISHOP ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
FOR PREVENTING FROM THE COVID 19 INFECTIONS**

The Right Reverend Mario Yamanouchi, Bishop of Saitama
September 28th, 2021

**Re: Responding to the Lifting of the “State of Emergency”
by the Japanese Government.**

It has officially been announced by the Government that the “State of Emergency” will be lifted on September 30th. Responding to this Announcement by the Government;

The suspension of the celebrating the mass with the congregations will be lifted on Friday, October 1st. You will, thus, be asked to take the Parish activities following the “Precautions Measures” on my 14th Letter for the time being.

This announcement by the Government does not guarantee the end of the spreading of the Covid 19. Although the decision comes from the so far successful progress of the vaccinations, we should continue to be cautious by making all the efforts for preventing from the further spreading of that virus, e.g., by keeping social distancing.

The three general instructions for the time being

- 1. The masses with the congregations will be allowed to celebrate just once on Sundays, in addition once every Saturday evening (as the Sunday vigil mass).**

It is important for everybody to join the mass at least once a month, so that, only if necessary, you will be allowed to celebrate mass twice on Sundays.

- 2. The masses with the congregations will only be allowed to celebrate in Japanese, or in Japanese with the part of the readings and/or the part of the prayer of the faithful in the foreign languages.**
- 3. You will be asked to suspend the parish activities except the absolute necessary meetings for running or maintaining the parish (including the funerals).**

(You will receive my further instructions in case the increase of the spreading of the Covid 19 gets to the cautious level again.)