



## Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

6 Greenock Court,  
Greenvale, Victoria 3059, Australia  
Phone: +61-(03) 8313 3678  
Bishop.melbourne@syromalabar.org.au

### Circular

Prot. No. 37/20/42

16/03/2020

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers & Sisters,

I call upon all of you to follow the instructions from the Prime Minister and other health authorities vigilantly, to protect everyone, especially the most vulnerable amongst us.

**In our Eparchy, Retreats, Family Ward meetings and; Catechism classes are suspended until further notice.**

**At this stage, we will not cancel Holy *Qurbana* on Sundays and weekdays.** If people are unable to be present at a celebration of Holy *Qurbana*, we encourage them to spend more time in personal and family prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, making spiritual communion, participating in Holy *Qurbana* online - Shalom TV, etc.

Holy Week: Large crowds should be avoided/restricted for the Holy Week services.

Holy Thursday: The celebration should be restricted to Holy *Qurbana* and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for a short period of time. (No washing of the feet).

Good Friday: Passion of the Lord is to be observed in a simple form inside the Church. Veneration of the Cross - It shall be restricted to a bow only.

Since our Eparchy is spread all across Australia, it is very hard to take sweeping decisions on all detailed matters from the Chancery office; but I would suggest that the parish priest/chaplain together with the parish council take prudent decisions for emerging local needs according to the State/Territories and Federal government directions.

For those who have any sign of fever or flu, please refrain from coming to the church or any meeting/gathering. Health care workers are advised not come directly from their workplaces to join any community activities. First, please take any sanitary precautions such as thoroughly washing hands. I highly recommend social distancing in all community celebrations, meetings & gatherings.

Let us continue to pray ardently for the victims of the Coronavirus and health care workers, including those do research so that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to discover the proper remedies against this virus.

I request Rev. Fathers to communicate this circular to all the community members.

Yours in Christ

+Bosco Puthur