



5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Brothers

As people of God, we are bound by Christian love to co-operate with Health Authorities to do all we can to contain the coronavirus (COVID-19).

We become conscious of this when we gather for Liturgy especially Sunday Eucharist.

I ask you to observe the following directions at this time.

Please empty the Holy Water Stoops at the doors of the Church. It is recommended that in the place of the Penitential Rite, water is blessed and sprinkled on the people. Blessed water should be available for people to take home.

All surfaces in the Church and offices should be disinfected regularly.

To avoid surplus handling of the vessels for bread and wine parishes may choose to suspend the practice of presenting them to the priest; they may be placed on the credence table before Mass.

At the preparation of the gifts priests and deacons are to sanitize their hands before handling the bread and wine and their vessels.

With regard to Holy Communion, please observe the following for the time being

- That we cease to distribute on the tongue to avoid transfer of saliva.
- That we cease to distribute Communion by the Chalice.
- That in receiving Communion on the hand we observe the correct manner.
- That communicants are absolutely prohibited from dipping the particle of the Body in the Chalice.
- That Ministers of Holy Communion clean their hands with an alcohol based gel or rub before and after Holy Communion, and in ministering avoid skin to skin contact.

You are encouraged to give each other the Sign of Peace – but without physical contact.

If anyone experiences cold or flu symptoms or been in contact with a coronavirus affected place or person within the last 14 days, remain away from Mass, until cleared by the Doctor. Their Sunday Observance is met by a time of prayer at home.

Yours truly in Christ,

+ **James Foley**  
BISHOP OF CAIRNS