



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

C.B.C.I. Centre, 1 Ashok Place, Near Gole Dakhana, New Delhi-110 001. India

Tel: +91 11 2334 4470

Cardinal Oswald Gracias

President

March 20, 2020

To: All Member Bishops
Catholic Bishops' Conference of India

Your Beatitude, Your Eminence, Your Grace, Your Lordship,

On March 10th I had sent you an advisory regarding our response to the Coronavirus. Ten days later the situation has not improved. The Coronavirus pandemic is still spreading, posing an extremely serious danger to all. Last evening the Prime Minister made an earnest appeal to all of us to stay at home on Sunday, March 22, in a self-imposed curfew. Heeding our Prime Minister's call and in the interest of the safety of our people, which need is paramount, I have cancelled all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Bombay with effect from midnight of Friday, March 20, 2020 until April 4, 2020, the eve of Palm Sunday (inclusive).

Each Bishop may make a decision for his own Diocese/Eparchy. But I recommend that the Diocesan Bishops/Eparchs cancel all Sunday Masses at least this Sunday, March 22, 2020.

To give you an idea of what you could do, I am sending you the text of a Video Message which I have streamed on YouTube in the Archdiocese of Bombay. You can modify this according to your local circumstances.

All of us pray that the situation comes to normalcy soon and the spread of the virus is controlled.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours fraternally in Christ,

✱ **Oswald Cardinal Gracias**
Archbishop of Bombay &
President, CBCI

Encl: as above