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Oswald Cardinal Gracias

My dear people

When I gave my video message two days back I promised I would get back to you before the end of the week. I am doing so now.

Last evening the Prime Minister made an appeal to all of us to stay at home on Sunday, March 22, in a self-imposed curfew. It is evident that the deadly coronavirus is still spreading, posing an extremely serious danger to all. Heeding our Prime Minister's call and in the interest of the safety of our people, which need is paramount, I have decided to cancel all public Mass in the Archdiocese of Bombay with effect from midnight tonight, Friday, March 20, 2020 until April 4, 2020, the eve of Palm Sunday (inclusive).

Several TV channels like EWTN, Goodness TV, and Shalom telecast the Eucharist. You may benefit from these telecasts, but you are not obliged to do so. On Sunday, March 22, a Mass celebrated by me will be live streamed on YouTube and the Archdiocese of Bombay website at 9:00 a.m. I will try to organize a celebration of the Mass to be live streamed into your homes regularly.

This is a trying and tense period for all of us. We need to turn to God. I am keeping our Churches open for at least for a few hours everyday to enable those who want to pray privately before the Blessed Sacrament to do so.

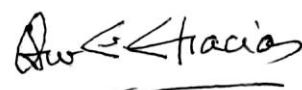
My advice to you: stay at home and avoid socializing. At home, bond more with others. Keep your eyes open to notice those who may need your assistance because they have no one to care for them. Use the telephone and email to keep in touch with those neglected and forgotten.

The Government is doing a commendable job. Please give all co-operation to them. As suggested by our Prime Minister, to show our appreciation to care givers I am asking Church bells to be pealed on Sunday, March 22 at 5.00 p.m. You may join in this thanks in your own personal way.

Do pray that we will soon come back to normalcy. I am urging our parish Fathers to pray more. I am sure the religious will be doing this. Do pray for all in the Archdiocese of Bombay.

I send you my affectionate greetings and assure you of my prayers.

God Bless!

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March 20, 2020

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias
Archbishop of Bombay