

Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council (TNBC)
Tamil Nadu Latin Bishops' Council (TNLBC)



PRESIDENT :

Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy

Archbishop of Madurai
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Your Grace/Excellency,

Greetings from Archbishop Antony Pappusamy, President of TNBC/TNLBC!

I hope you are keeping fine. The corona virus is unexpectedly fast spreading and it has reached now every corner of our State. Let us not lose our hope and continue to pray and be with our people.

VICE-PRESIDENT :

Most Rev. Dr. A. Neethinathan

Bishop of Chingleput
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The State Government has allowed to open the Churches from 1st July onwards only in the Villages (Panchayats) throughout Tamil Nadu except five Districts (Madras, Chingleput, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Madurai) and from 6th July onwards throughout Tamil Nadu except the district of Madras.

In this situation, it is better to have some common guidelines throughout Tamil Nadu and so I am sending the following to you for your perusal and you may issue them according to the needs and convenience of your diocese subject to the norms of the Local authorities too.

SECRETARY :

Most Rev. Dr. P. Thomas Paulsamy

Bishop of Dindigul
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1. You may instruct the priests to open the Churches in the villages (panchayats) only and this can be done gradually depending upon the situation of the place.
2. People have to be strictly instructed to come to the Church with masks. People who come without masks are not to be permitted to enter into the Church.
3. The sick people have to be properly instructed not to come to the Churches.
4. Sanitation facilities must be kept outside the Church.
5. If there are two Masses successively on the same day, the Church must be disinfected with sanitization immediately after the first Mass.
6. People have to be asked to enter into the Church through one door and to exit through another door.
7. Keeping in mind the social distancing, the number of people participating in Mass can be restricted according to the capacity of the church.

TREASURER :

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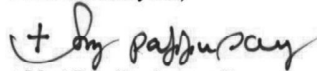
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8. People should not be allowed to gather in big numbers inside the Church campus.
9. People have to be asked to move out of the Church immediately after the religious ceremonies.
10. Church festivals are not to be conducted until we receive further direction from the Government.
11. The celebrants have to wear masks while distributing the Holy Communion and the Holy Communion has to be given only in hands.
12. Till we reach the normal way of living, people have to be dissuaded to receive personal blessings from the priests.
13. Since there is complete confinement on Sundays in the month of July, Sunday mass can be celebrated on Saturday evening.

Let us continue to pray together to conquer the Corona virus and to return to normalcy as early as possible by God's grace.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
President, TNBC/TNLBC
30.06.2020



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