

Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto
Archbishop of Delhi



Archbishop's House
1, Ashok Place
New Delhi - 110001, India
Fax: +91-11-23746575
Tel: +91-11-23343457; 23362058
e-mail: archbishopdelhi@gmail.com

CIRCULAR

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TO ALL CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND LAITY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DELHI

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From a complete 'lock down' situation we have been following the news of the serious threat to the entire planet posed by COVID-19 pandemic. We in India are not an exception. This is a moment for us to place all our trust in God's infinite mercy and return to Him who alone is the Alpha and Omega of our lives. Like the disciples in Mathew 9:23-27, let us cry out to the Lord saying, "Save us Lord: we are perishing." And we will hear the reassuring words of Our Lord, "why are you afraid O you of little faith?" Then the Lord will rise and calm the storm and we will realize that he is truly our Savior who walks with us; but we have to believe in Him as our Lord and Savior. Let us call on the **Holy Name of Jesus** at every moment, as we breathe in and breathe out – **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...**

In the context of the nationwide lock down till April 15, 2020, ordered by our honorable Prime Minister, we have to make arrangements pertaining to the Holy Week (April 5-12, 2020).

In this second Circular during this crisis, I am stating in a summary form the recent instructions from the Holy See regarding the liturgical celebrations of the **Holy Week** in the extraordinary context of COVID-19. The instructions are for the year 2020 only:

- ❖ Easter is the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply 'one feast' among others.
- ❖ The Easter Triduum preceded by the five -weeks of Lent and crowned by the Pentecost cannot be transferred to another time.
- ❖ In the places where there are restrictions from Civil Authorities, the Bishops and priests may celebrate the rites of the Holy Week in a suitable place without the presence of the people and avoiding concelebration.
- ❖ The faithful should be informed well in advance of the timings of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. Means of 'live' (not 'recorded') telematic broadcast can be of help in this situation. In any event, it remains important to dedicate an adequate time to prayer, giving importance above all to the Liturgy of the Hours.