



# ARCHDIOCESE OF VISAKHAPATNAM

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Circular, Visakha 5-21/20/04/2021/Abpvizag

Dear Fathers, brothers, and sisters, Greetings of peace in the Risen Lord!

We all had the joy of celebrating the liturgies of the Holy Week and Easter without interruption! All of us are happy that unlike the previous year Covid-19 did not stop us from experiencing the renewed joy in the Risen Christ. But, it is time to wake up! Cannot relax anymore! We can see the sudden surge of Covid-19 Coronavirus. *We in the Church should also rise to the occasion and take all the precautions and preventive measures in the parishes and villages to arrest the spread of this Covid-19 Coronavirus. Let us be safe and help everyone else to be safe from this life-threatening Covid-19 Coronavirus with all its variants!*

*I am sending this circular with some directions and guidelines:*

- 1. Postpone or cancel indefinitely all the organized functions and programmes planned in the parishes or in the villages so that there are no big gatherings of people in the Churches. Fresh dates can be fixed when some kind of normalcy prevails!*
- 2. Parish priests may use their discretion and can even cancel Masses on Weekdays and Sundays from 22<sup>nd</sup> April up to 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. If Masses on Sundays and weekdays are celebrated between 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 15<sup>th</sup> May, the number should not exceed seventy-five or hundred people. The Parish Priest can arrange more masses, if needed.*
- 3. It is good also to resume the safety measures like sanitizing the Church and premises, making sanitizers available at the entrance of the main door and side doors, etc. Maintaining the physical distance should be insisted and the same should be monitored with the help of parish committee and volunteers in the parish.*
- 4. Whatever directions or guidelines that the civil authorities give for the common celebrations - in the particular area, city or town or Mandal - should be followed strictly. This way, let us extend the best of our cooperation to the local authorities.*

*Let us continue to offer special prayers for humanity across the world, especially for the vulnerable sections of people in our society, the poor, the homeless, and the migrants. United in prayer and wishing all the safety from the Covid-19 Pandemic,*

Yours truly in the Lord,

*+ Prakash P.*

+ Prakash Mallavarapu  
Archbishop of Visakhapatnam

