



Archbishop of Kota Kinabalu

Easter Wednesday, 15 April 2020

To all priests, religious, and faithful in the Archdiocese of Kota Kinabalu

Dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,

COMPLIANCE WITH EXTENSION OF MCO TILL 28 APRIL 2020

The Lord is Risen, Alleluia! A Blessed and Joyous Easter to all!

Our Government has extended the Movement Control Order till 28th April 2020. I urge all Catholics in our Archdiocese to comply to the Order and do so earnestly and willingly. This is a small but critical contribution we can offer to fight the epidemic and pandemic.

The worst has happened! In the history of the Catholic Church in Sabah, this is the first time our people have not been able to take part physically in the Liturgy of Holy Week and Easter. As we thank God for the communication technology and internet with which we have been able to watch the liturgical celebrations in our homes, we also know that there is no substitute for the actual yearly celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord.

But, the Lord has not left us suffering without a blessing. From what we have observed, many have taken Lent and the Holy Week personally into their inner self, and have shared their faith with many more than in other years. Strangely, deprived of the actual celebrations, we have been made much more keenly aware, have prayed more, and more actively taken part in the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord. If we have eyes to "see", we will always find reasons enough to be thankful to God, as St. Paul says: "Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Most of us are stuck with each other in the same house all the time. Without praying sincerely and constantly for each other, it will be difficult to be more patient, accepting and appreciating of each other. Every family is put to the test. May God give every family the grace to come out of this test not lapsed but blooming in your Catholic faith.

Once again Happy Easter!

Yours devotedly,

Archbishop John Wong