

[View this email in your browser](#)



Catholic Diocese of Bathurst A Statement from Bishop McKenna

**ALL PUBLIC MASSES IN THE DIOCESE OF BATHURST
WILL CEASE FROM 21 MARCH 2020 UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19**

20 March 2020

To the Pastors and People of the Diocese of Bathurst

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every day, there are new developments in slowing the spread of Covid19. Only a short time after my last announcement, I regret that we shall have to make another change, based on the latest regulation from the Commonwealth Government.

The celebration of all public Masses in the Diocese of Bathurst will cease from tomorrow, Saturday 21st March 2020. Churches will remain open every day for private prayer.

The priests will continue to be available for the other sacraments, especially the Anointing of the Sick and Penance as needed.

I urge all Catholics to increase their time in personal prayer and reflection on the scriptures as we journey through these difficult days. In particular, Pope Francis is encouraging us to pray the Rosary. I urge those

who are younger and healthier to be available to help your neighbours who may be confined to home.

Put all your trust in God, who made us and invites us to share the fulness of life in Jesus Christ, the conqueror of death.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION

As you know, all Catholics are obliged to attend Mass or parish Liturgy every Sunday. To deliberately miss Mass, *except for a serious reason*, is a grave sin.

Clearly, the current Covid 19 emergency is such a serious reason, so I formally dispense all Catholics in the Diocese of Bathurst from their obligation until further notice.

It is also an obligation for Catholics to support their parish financially, according to their means. This would be an appropriate time to check with your parish about arrangements for on-line contributions which will be necessary for their continued functioning.

Yours in Christ,

+*Michael McKenna*
Bishop of Bathurst

Catholic Diocese of Bathurst
PO Box 246 | Bathurst NSW 2795
phone: (02) 6334 6400 | 0407 888 407 | fax: (02) 6331 9453
bathurst.catholic.org.au
Read the latest edition of the Catholic Observer [here](#)



Copyright © 2020 Catholic Diocese of Bathurst, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



Copyright © 2020 Catholic Diocese of Bathurst, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



