

Dear Parishioners,

As you are aware, over the past few weeks, countries around the world have been faced with the occurrence and transmission of coronavirus. In this regard and in the light of our interaction during weekly and daily mass celebrations, a few persons have expressed concern on the impact on our masses in Bonn, and the measures in place within the church.

You may access the following health resources for more information:

- Up-to-date information regarding the spread of the coronavirus can be found on the WHO site, as well the CDC's (Centers for Disease and Prevention).
- The WHO publishes daily situation reports.
- WHO's standard recommendation on how to reduce exposure and transmission of the coronavirus.

We are also aware that for the international nature of our parish community, travel is inevitable. Similar to other international agencies in Bonn, we would like to urge parishioners who traveled and returned from these affected countries to be cautious and exercise the measures identified by the WHO. If you have returned from these areas, please consider remaining away from mass for a period of at least two weeks. Provided that you or your family does not exhibit symptoms of the virus, then please feel free to attend mass. However, should symptoms be identified, we encourage you to see a doctor and/or notify the Health authorities in Bonn, who would then decide on the way forward for the necessary action.

Concerning information on the danger, preparations, measures etc. in Germany, please follow the link below:

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2020/coronavirus.html>

Saint Thomas More
International Catholic Chaplaincy

Coronavirus Precautions

During the current Coronavirus epidemic, in keeping with the latest guidelines that we have received, we recommend that the following measures be implemented in our parish from this weekend:

The Sign of Peace during Mass:

Instead of a handshake members of the congregation are asked to join their hands together, as in prayer, turn to their immediate neighbours, bow slightly, and say "Peace be with you".

Prayer:

We suggest that you do not hold hands during prayer (e.g. the Lord's Prayer).

Holy Water:

For the time being we will not have Holy Water at the main entrance to the church.

Holy Communion:

We request that you receive Holy Communion only on the hand.

If anyone has any concerns about this, please talk to Father after Mass.

These measures will remain in place until further notice. It is hoped that the reasons for this temporary policy will be understood and appreciated.

Thank you for your help.