



Eparchy of Faridabad
Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

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To: All the Women Religious Heads
and Superiors in the Territory of the Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi.

22 March 2020

Sub: Confession with General Absolution and Holy Communion without Holy Mass

Dear Rev. Sisters,

Greetings from the Bishop's House in Karol Bagh!

As we all are going through a highly critical time caused by the outbreak of Covid-19 and its fast spreading all over the world, we should be very careful to take all precautionary measures prescribed by the civil authorities and the doctors. May I request you all to pray ardently for our diocese, for the world and for the whole humanity.

Since our Churches are temporarily closed for public celebrations of the Holy Mass, there are many enquiries from religious communities about the reception of the Holy Communion. By this circular I give the religious a general permission for the following.

As long as there is no public Mass, you may please make use of the Holy Mass in the media (Some of our priests have live telecast of their Masses. You may have access to my Mass at this link. <https://youtu.be/S1x1u76bHNQ>). After watching the Holy Mass, the local Superior or the one in charge of the liturgy in the community can open the tabernacle and distribute Holy Communion to the members. It is to be done with due reverence and piety.

2. I know that you all have confession very often. Since, personal reception of the Sacrament of Confession is also becoming difficult, you are hereby advised to inform your respective confessors that they can have recourse to General Absolution (CECO:720-723) The ritual is to be conducted by the Chaplain or Parish Priest as prescribed by the general norms. Canon 721 - §1 exhorts that "to enjoy the sacramental absolution given to many at the same time, it is required not only that the person be properly disposed, but also at the same time intend in due time to confess individually the grave sins which at the present time cannot be confessed."

This permission will stand good till further instruction is issued by me. While placing you all to the Eucharistic Lord, may I request you to take care of your health and follow strictly the guidelines issued by the State authorities.

In Jesus Christ,

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara
Bishop of the diocese of Faridabad

