



The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East
The Diocese of Jerusalem

The Most Revd. Suheil Salman Dawani

6 March 2020

Clergy and Institutional Leaders of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Dear Diocesan Clergy and Institutional Leaders,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you know, the Coronavirus epidemic has been a major concern for the world in general, and the countries and territories in our Diocese in particular. After consultation with the relevant health authorities, I am sending you these guidelines to be enforced beginning immediately and until further notice:

Sunday and Weekday Worship Services: Regularly scheduled services may continue as usual. However, in celebrations of Holy Eucharist, communion should be given only in one kind, placing the host in the communicants' hands (not their mouths), and exchanging the peace should be done verbally only. Likewise, greetings before and after services and during coffee hour should be done without handshakes or kissing. Coffee hour itself, as well as gatherings after weddings and funerals, and Sunday School may be held, but not in an overly crowded area. Services for outside private groups should be cancelled and not scheduled for the near future.

Institutional Visitors. Outside visitors to our institutions should likewise be cancelled and not scheduled for the near future. Access to institutions should be limited to employees and those directly being served, escorted if needed by their family members. Important office meetings with outside professional representatives may be held at the manager's discretion.

Schools. In those places where the government has not closed the schools, classes may continue to be held, but outside fieldtrips should be cancelled. Events within the school itself are recommended to be canceled, but at the principal's discretion.

Guesthouses. Guesthouses may continue to operate, but access should be restricted to guests, and special vigilance should be given to their health and sanitation.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Diocesan office if you have any questions about these guidelines.

Grace and Peace,

+ *Suheil Dawani*
The Most Reverend Suheil S. Dawani
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem