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圣希达堂

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

Dear St Hilda's Family,

The rapid spread of the Coronavirus is causing great concern around the world and in our nation. Experts agree that we are still at the beginning stage of the spread and that things will become worse before they will get better. How do we as Christians, even at St Hilda's respond to such situation?

With trust in the sovereign power of our triune God who created the heavens, who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited - he says: "I am the Lord, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:18)

With love towards one another as Jesus loved us, so we must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:35)

With vigilance. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8+9)

With prayers. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

In any group of people, even within our church family, there are those who are more concerned and more cautious, and those who are more relaxed. We have different "comfort levels" when it comes to human touch or to interactions with a person who is unwell. Some of us might not want to shake hands at this time whereas others might feel rejected if a church friend doesn't want to shake hands anymore. Some might find the measures that the church puts in place not sufficient while others may find them too stringent. The key Christian virtue in such situation is responding to one another with grace.

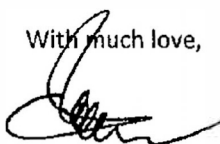
These are the measures that we are putting in place for now:

- ✓ Care for our children: We will measure the temperature of all Sunday school children and disinfect their hands before they enter class. The toys and floor in Cradle Club are regularly being disinfected.
- ✓ Hand-sanitization for all of us: We have made hand-sanitizers available at all entrances to our worship halls and the Manna House. We will also offer you hand-sanitization as you come forward for Holy Communion.
- ✓ Improved cleanliness: We have increased our efforts to regularly disinfect door handle / knobs.
- ✓ Respect one another: We encourage all of us to respect the "comfort level" when we greet one another, even during the service. If in doubt, let's resort to non-touch gestures.

As a church, we continue to pray for those affected by the virus, especially for the people in China and for healthcare workers.

Above all, let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

With much love,



Ps Tak Meng



Ps Martin

In Christ, we serve the community as a Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love.