

## Home Sweet Home

Hello, everyone. How are you ? Due to my absence from Kishiwada Church for more than three months, we have not been able to see each other. As you know, I left Kishiwada Church on June 6, 2021 for visiting my family in Indonesia. This is the first time in a long time that I would like to share with you about my experiences during in Indonesia.

To be honest, I was not so sure about travelling during the outbreak. However, because of not being able to meet my family about 5 years, I get a permission from my superior to return to my homeland. Anyway, before leaving for Indonesia, I took a PCR test. Then, when I arrived in Indonesia, I had to wait for six days in a hotel set up by the government. Fortunately, the results were negative and I was able to leave for Flores Island. After 5 days of quarantine in my hometown, finally, I met the family. Happy!!!!

Such a good timing, when I arrived in my village, the churches had just reopened for mass, so at the request of the parish priest of the local church, I could celebrated the Sunday Masses and visited the elderly and sick. This made me very happy because I was able to meet all the members of the local church, relatives, friends and acquaintances again after a long time. Unfortunately, due to the spreading of new corona varian called "Delta strain", so the diocese had to cancel all masses. At the same time, the state also declared a state of emergency. Moreover, all kind of transports was temporarily suspended for about a week, so I was supposed to go to Jakarta, but I couldn't go. Fortunately, a week later, domestic flights resumed, so I took the PCR test and left for Jakarta. As soon as I arrived, I spent 10 days of quarantine in the Xaverian's convent in Jakarta. At that time, I received the second dose of vaccine.

After the quarantine, I had to have a negative PCR test in order to return to Japan. so I left for Japan on 29th September. However, when at Kansai International Airport, I had to take another Antigen test at the airport following the Japan's regulation and then have to stay in quarantine for another 14 days. For the first 3 days I stayed in Airport Nikko Hotel, the rest was done in Xaverian's convent until 13th of October.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in various ways during my absence in Izumi block. First of all, to Fr. Murata, the Xaverians, the members of the various committees, and the parishioners. Furthermore, I would like to apologise sincerely for all the inconveniences caused by my absence, especially for the very late return to Izumi Block.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to God for His blessings and your prayers that I was able to return to Kishiwada Church in good health despite the long journey backed to Japan. In addition, as I experinced with my family during the "Stay home" time, I would like to send a message to you all that although we may not be able to take time for fellowship because of our busy schedules, we should take care of our own families and support each other. Because family is the beginning of life and the place where love never ends. Being together during the lockdown gives us the opportunity to understand even more how precious family relationships are. Corona has interrupted our busy lives and given us precious time to spend with our families. It has also given us a sense of responsibility and made us appreciate the little things. Most of all, it reminded us that we are here on earth not as individuals, but as part of a community. But the important thing is to hope and pray for God's plans to come to fruition, and to have faith that God is with us, no matter how difficult the circumstances. When we have problems, let us pray to God to help us overcome them by faith in Him. Please let us continue to walk together with one heart and one mind for our beloved Izumi block. Thank you very much for kindness and love.