

## **ARCHDIOCESE OF KOTA KINABALU**

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### **STATEMENT REGARDING “THE PHENOMENA IN NAJU”**

In a letter addressed to the President of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) dated 21 September 2018, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Korea declared that Naju is a “false Marian shrine” and urged the faithful and priests in Asia not to visit Naju.

The Korean bishops’ stand is based on the “Guidelines on the phenomena in Naju” released in the name of the Archbishop of Kwangju, as follows:

1. According to the Decree of the Archbishop of Gwangju (January 21, 2008), clergy, religious, and lay people are forbidden from presiding over or participating in the celebration of the sacraments at any alleged ‘oratory’ or the ‘hill of Our Lady’ in Naju. No sacramental celebrations are permitted at any alleged ‘oratory’ or the ‘hill of Our Lady’ in Naju.
2. Parish priests should inform their faithful of the stance of the Church, and the reason for the prohibition.
3. The above-mentioned phenomena are not proven to be supernatural and have no correlation with sound Christian piety. Therefore, it is not permitted to publish or spread any related material through printed materials or electronic media to propagate these phenomena.
4. Those who deliberately violate these guidelines disobey the pastoral directives and judgement of the local Ordinary and they are to be punished according to Code of Canon Law (cf. Canon 1371 No.2, 1373).

In communion with the Korean bishops and bishops in the FABC, I hereby urge all clergy, religious and laity to take heed of the “Guidelines on the phenomena in Naju”.



**Archbishop John Wong**  
21 January 2019