

# HK Catholics asked to pray for cardinal

HONG KONG (SE): Noting the serious nature of Cardinal John Baptist Wu's illness, the Catholic Diocese has called on the faithful to pray for their spiritual leader who was readmitted to hospital on August 19.

In a letter to all parish priests, Religious institutes and missionary societies, Father Dominic Chan, vicar-general, asked for special prayer intentions for the cardinal's health to be included in all weekday and weekend Masses.

"Cardinal Wu was admitted to hospital around the middle of June and at the end of July he returned home," the letter dated August 30 said. "However, he was admitted to hospital again on 19 August. His condition is rather serious. So, let us pray for the cardinal and the diocesan family that we may all accept the will of

the Lord with trust and peace of mind."

The diocese has refused to release further details about the cardinal's health on the grounds that this would be an invasion of privacy. The cardinal, 77, is well known as an intensely private man who shies away from media attention. The diocese decided to make the August 30 announcement in order to counter any speculation and misunderstanding.

The head of the church in Hong Kong, who in June marked the 27th anniversary of his appointment as bishop of the diocese, has over the past few years handed over more of his responsibilities to his subordinates.

According to Bishop Joseph Zen, the cardinal's designated successor, the diocese is continuing to run smoothly and the cardinal is being kept informed.