



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

Liturgical Guidance for Holy Week 2020

- a. The liturgies of this Holy Week will be celebrated without the presence of the faithful. This will mean that the liturgies will need adaptation and simplification without losing the heart of their meaning...
- b. As requested by the Decree, the times of the various liturgies of Holy Week should be published in parishes and via the social media, especially where those liturgies are to be live-streamed from the Cathedral or Parish church. The clergy, and the faithful, should dedicate time for prayer during Holy Week, in particular, the Liturgy of the Hours should be used to sanctify this most precious time in the liturgical year.
- c. **Palm Sunday** - The Mass of Palm Sunday is to be celebrated and the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem should be celebrated within the church buildings and not outside; ...
 - i **Palms could be kept until next year, or parish priests may wish to bless palms separately from the liturgy so that they can be available to their people at a later date when the restrictions are lifted and travel becomes possible [We follow these guidelines in our parish]**
 - ii Palm should not be blessed and then made available for collection by parishioners.
- d. On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, Mass takes place as per the present restrictions.
- e. **Chrism Mass** - The Archbishops of England and Wales, noting that the Holy Father has deferred the celebration of the Chrism Mass, have asked that a gesture of solidarity with the Holy Father is made by postponing Chrism Masses within the Conference.
 - i Therefore, **we will be postponing the Chrism Mass this year**. Once the restrictions of the pandemic are lifted, the Chrism Mass and the Blessing of Holy Oils and Consecration of the Chrism will take place, with the Bishop, priests and faithful of our dioceses.
 - ii Until then, the Holy Oils from last year should be retained in parishes.

- f. **Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper** - The Mass of the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated and the faculty to celebrate this Mass without the people is granted to all priests on this day. The Washing of the Feet is to be omitted and there is to be no procession to the Altar of Repose. The reserved Sacrament is to be kept in the Tabernacle. Those who are not able to celebrate this Mass should pray Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours...
- g. **Good Friday** - The Liturgy of Good Friday is to be celebrated, although the Archbishops of England and Wales ask that if it is unrealistic for a priest to celebrate the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, he should spend time in prayer for his people. This will include the praying of Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours and also spend time before a Crucifix, where he should pray the Universal Prayers of the Liturgy of Good Friday including the additional prayer given below.
 - i The Holy Father has decreed that a special intention (For the afflicted in time of Pandemic) be inserted before the intercession For those in Tribulation.
- h. The Easter Vigil - ...
 - ii For those celebrating the Easter Vigil, the preparation of the fire is omitted, and following the Greeting, and usual blessing of the Paschal Candle, it is lit and placed in the candlestick without ceremony and procession, and the Easter Proclamation (the Exsultet) immediately follows. As there is no procession, it is recommended that this part of the Vigil takes place in the Sanctuary where the Paschal candle is enthroned either in the centre or at the lectern.
 - iii The Liturgy of the Word follows, noting the requirements of the readings, psalms and prayers. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises is made without the blessing of water. For those who are not live-streaming their liturgy, it may be sensible to change the interrogative form of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises into a statement of intent: I renounce.... I believe....
 - iv The celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Reception into the Church are to postponed. It will be up to each parish priest to decide on a suitable occasion for these to take place as soon as practical once the restrictions are lifted.
 - v BBC Radio 4 and local radio stations will be broadcasting a short Easter Sunday service celebrated by the Cardinal at **08.10 am on Easter Sunday morning**.

"...I cannot forget those who are sick with coronavirus, people who are in hospital. I am aware of the generosity of those who put themselves at risk for the treatment of this pandemic or to guarantee the essential services to society. So many heroes, every day, at every hour! I also remember how many are in financial straits and are worried about work and the future. A thought also goes out to prison inmates, whose pain is compounded by fear of the epidemic, for themselves and their loved ones; I think of the homeless, who do not have a home to protect them.

It is a difficult time for everyone. For many, very difficult. The Pope knows this and, with these words, he wants to tell everyone of his closeness and affection. Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighbourhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love. This is what is needed today: the creativity of love..." **Pope Francis**