



HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Since March 2020 Holy Communion to the homebound has been suspended due to the high risk at this time of pandemic. *Viaticum* brought by a priest always being the exception.

At this time, the Archbishop desires to expand the regulations regarding Holy Communion to the homebound which were issued on 13 July of this year allowing priests to take Holy Communion to the homebound.

Firstly, let us define ‘homebound’ as those who because of age or ill-health cannot attend Holy Mass or those who feel that their health would be at risk if they were to attend. These individuals may request to receive Holy Communion at their homes. Ordinary or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion can be utilized to fulfill this request.

The protocols for the distribution of Holy Communion as found in the ‘*Vademecum*’ should be strictly followed using the Short Rite of Communion to the Sick therein.

The bond between the sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion should be maintained by, whenever possible, bringing Holy Communion from a Mass celebrated in the parish at which the minister has participated.

If extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are to be used for this ministry, they should be well trained, not only in the distribution of the Holy Communion, but also with regard to the special circumstances of this ministry at this time.

Each request for Holy Communion should be treated individually by the pastor of a parish and his prudential judgment will determine the pastoral approach.

Pastors are asked to seriously consider the health risks to the homebound and to the ministers before arranging these visits.

The devotion and reverence due the Most Blessed Sacrament should never be compromised.

5 August 2020