



Archdiocese of Kingston

Liturgical Directives

Palm Sunday and the Easter Triduum

3 April 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father,

The following directives are given for the celebration of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum for priests who will celebrate privately. For priests who will celebrate with an associate, resident priest(s) or deacon, the Norms issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments are to be followed, as outlined below.

Given the restrictions currently in place in the Province of Ontario during this public health crisis, and bearing in mind the provisions of the Decree *In Time of COVID-19 (11)* 25 March 2020, the celebration of the Paschal Triduum is to be substantially modified, according to the directives set out below.

I will be celebrating the Sacred Triduum at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. It will be live-streamed at www.stmaryscathedral.ca. In order to be unified in this time of isolation, I would be grateful if each of you could privately celebrate the Triduum Liturgies at the same time as I will be celebrating them: Holy Thursday, 7pm; Good Friday, 3 pm; Easter Vigil, 8 pm; and Easter Sunday 10:30 am. I am aware that this may not be possible for those of you planning to live-stream at your regular Mass times; but please do your best to comply. Additionally, I would kindly ask that you publicise this to your parishioners and invite them to participate either in the on-line liturgies at St. Mary's Cathedral or at your own parish. In this way, the faithful of the Archdiocese can be united in prayer as we celebrate the most Sacred Liturgies of our Faith.

Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 5, 2020:

The public celebration of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion is not permitted. During the private celebration of the Mass, palms are not to be blessed, and Form Three of the Entrance Procession is to be used. If pastors wish, palms may be blessed and distributed at a later date when government regulations permit public gatherings.

The Mass of Chrism - Tuesday, April 7, 2020:

At the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception:

- The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated privately at 10:30 am. The liturgy will include the blessing of the Holy Oils, which will be delivered to the Deans and made available to parishes at a later date.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper - Thursday, April 9, 2020:

At the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception:

- Present at the liturgy will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- The washing of feet will be omitted.
- At the end of the Holy Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the tabernacle, with no procession to a special place of reposition.

At Parish Churches:

- For this year only, the Holy See has granted to all priests the faculty to celebrate this Mass without the people present.
- The washing of feet will be omitted.
- At the end of the Holy Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the tabernacle, with no procession to a special place of reposition.
- Priests unable to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper are asked to pray the Vespers (Evening Prayer) of the Day.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion - April 10, 2020:

At the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception:

- Present at the liturgy will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- In a special Decree of March 19, 2020, of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, special prayers are to be said, "for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed".
- The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the Celebrant.

At Parish Churches:

- At the usual time of 3:00 pm, the pastor accompanied (as applicable) by the associate pastor(s), resident priest(s) or deacon will begin the liturgy for Good Friday.
- The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the Celebrant.
- Priests who are alone are not to celebrate the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday. Instead, they should pray the Liturgy of the Hours and, at 3:00 pm, are encouraged to read the Passion of the Lord from the Gospel of John and to pray the Universal Prayer contained in the *Roman Missal* for Good Friday, including prayers for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 11, 2020:

At the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception:

- Present at the liturgy will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- At the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, the lighting of the fire is omitted. The procession with the Paschal Candle is omitted and it is to be lit in the sanctuary. The Exsultet then follows immediately, and the Vigil proceeds in the usual way.
- The sacraments of Christian Initiation and the reception of candidates for Full Communion are postponed until a later date.
- The water is blessed using the formula on page 358 (no. 54) in the Roman Missal. (Holy water should not be put in the fonts until permission is given to do so).

At Parish Churches:

- The pastor accompanied (as applicable) by the associate pastor(s), resident priest(s) or deacon will begin the liturgy of the Easter Vigil.
- Priests who are alone should not celebrate the Easter Vigil; instead they should pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday.
- At the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, the lighting of the fire is omitted. The procession with the Paschal Candle is omitted and it is to be lit in the sanctuary. The Exsultet then follows immediately, and the Vigil proceeds in the usual way.
- The sacraments of Christian Initiation and the reception of candidates for Full Communion are postponed until a later date.
- The water is blessed using the formula on page 358 (no. 54) in the Roman Missal. (Holy water should not be put in the fonts until permission is given to do so).

Easter Sunday - April 12, 2020:

At the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception:

- Present at the Mass will be the priests of the Cathedral parish.
- Special prayers will be said for those affected by the current pandemic, for our religious and government leaders, and for the dead.

At Parish Churches:

- The pastor accompanied (as applicable) by the associate pastor(s), resident priest(s) or deacon will celebrate the Mass of Easter Sunday.
- Special prayers are to be said for those affected by the current pandemic, for our religious and government leaders, and for the dead.

Please be assured of my continued prayers and blessings, as we approach Holy Week.

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston