



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests

From: Archbishop Gagnon

+ R. A.

Date: March 27, 2020

Re: Holy Week Celebrations

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued two documents on March 19 and March 25, 2020 respectively (cf: attached) with reference to the Celebration of the Sacred Triduum and Holy Week. Taking these documents into consideration, the following will be effective in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg:

Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020

At parish churches, during the private celebration of Mass, the “Third Form: The Simple Entrance” is to be used. For those parishes who have palms, priests may bless them and make them available at a later date.

Mass from St. Mary’s Cathedral will be live-streamed beginning at 11:00 am on our Archdiocesan Website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper – April 9, 2020

At parish churches, priests are permitted to celebrate privately the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. The faculty to celebrate this Mass without the people is granted in an exceptional manner by the Holy See to all Priests. Obviously, the washing of the feet, which is already optional, is omitted. Likewise, the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose is omitted. The Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day.

Mass from St. Mary’s Cathedral will be live-streamed beginning at 7:30 pm on our Archdiocesan Website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

Good Friday – April 10, 2020

At parish churches, at the usual time of 3:00 pm priests will celebrate the Liturgy for Good Friday including the Reading of the Passion and the Universal Prayer for the liturgy of the day, including prayers for all whose lives are being affected by the COVID- 19 pandemic. Priests who are unable to celebrate the Passion should instead pray Vespers of the day.

The Service from St. Mary's Cathedral will be live-streamed beginning at 3:00 pm on our Archdiocesan Website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

The Easter Vigil – April 11, 2020

At parish churches, at the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, the lighting of the fire is omitted. The Paschal Candle is to be lit, along with the other candles in the sanctuary. The procession with the paschal candle is omitted. The liturgy begins with the proclamation of the Exsultet. The Vigil proceeds in the usual manner. The renewal of baptismal promises is to replace the baptismal liturgy. The Rite of Baptism is to be deferred to a later time.

Priests who are unable to celebrate the Vigil should instead pray the Office of the Readings.

Parishes may wish to encourage their parishioners to mark the celebration of the Vigil by placing a lighted candle in their windows or by ringing bells during their household's Easter celebration.

The celebration of the Easter Vigil from St. Mary's Cathedral will be live-streamed beginning at 8:00 pm on our Archdiocesan Website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020

Priests are to celebrate, privately, the Mass for Easter Sunday. Special prayers are to be said for those affected by the current pandemic, for our religious and government leaders, for our parishioners and for the dead.

The Mass of Easter Sunday will be live-streamed from St. Mary's Cathedral beginning at 11:00 am on our Archdiocesan Website: www.archwinnipeg.ca

N.B. The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated at a later date.