



# Diocese of Owensboro

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McRaith Catholic Center

March 24, 2020

## **Memorandum**

**To: All Priests**

**From: Lauren Johnson, Office of Worship, 270-852-8366**

For the safety of all, Bishop Medley has suspended the celebration of Mass and public gatherings until further notice. Given that many dioceses around the world are also unable to publically celebrate Holy Week, a decree was released on March 19<sup>th</sup> by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments concerning the observance of Holy Week 2020. The USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship followed up with general observations. Below is information summarized from both documents including information specific to our diocese:

### **Observance of Holy Week 2020**

- The celebrations of Holy Week and Easter cannot be transferred to another date. However, these could still be celebrated by the priest although without a congregation, if possible by livestream at a time publicized to all, so the faithful can prayerfully unite themselves while in their homes.
- Expressions of popular piety typically celebrated during this time may be transferred to other appropriate days.

### **Holy Thursday**

- Priests may celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper without a congregation.
- The washing of feet is to be omitted.
- The procession of the Blessed Sacrament to a place of repose is to be omitted. The Blessed Sacrament is to remain in the tabernacle.
- If a priest is unable to celebrate the Mass, he should pray the Vespers of the day.

### **Good Friday**

- It would be good to have at least one other person assisting during the veneration of the cross. Veneration should be shown by a profound bow or genuflection instead of kissing or touching the cross.
- Addition to Solemn Intercessions:
  - XI. **For an end to the pandemic**

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end

to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world,  
that our God and Father will heal the sick,  
strengthen those who care for them,  
and help us all to persevere in faith.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty and merciful God,  
source of all life, health and healing,  
look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease;  
protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us  
and in your fatherly providence  
grant recovery to the stricken,  
strength to those who care for them,  
and success to those working to eradicate this scourge.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen.

### **Easter Vigil**

- The lighting of the fire is omitted.
- The procession is omitted.
- The Easter candle is lit, followed by Easter Proclamation, then the Liturgy of the Word.
- Only the Renewal of Baptismal Promises is necessary for the Baptismal Liturgy, followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Priests who have no possibility of celebrating the Easter Vigil are to pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday.

### **Elect and Candidates**

- According to the Rite of Christian Initiation, the Bishop may “decide whether and when, as circumstances warrant, the entire rite of Christian initiation may be celebrated outside the usual times” (RCIA 34.2). Initiation into the Church is to be delayed until the Sunday Eucharist is resumed (including the rites during the Period of Purification and Enlightenment).

### **Concerning Blessed Oils**

- You may continue using the blessed oils from last year. The Office of Worship has additional Sacred Chrism on hand if you happen to run out.
- As a reminder, a priest may consecrate more Oil of the Sick or the Oil of Catechumens if necessary. You can find those prayers of blessing attached to this email. Please note that there is a new translation of these blessings as the texts were translated in accord with the principles articulated in *Liturgiam authenticam* and confirmed in November 2018; therefore, the prayers of blessing in the Book of Blessings and Rite of Christian Initiation are not currently up to date (please see the attachment for the prayers of blessing).



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. N. 153/20

**DÉCRET**  
**En temps de Covid-19**

Dans la période difficile que nous vivons à cause de la pandémie de Covid-19, compte tenu du cas d'empêchement de célébrer communautairement la liturgie dans l'église, comme les Évêques l'ont indiqué pour les territoires placés sous leur juridiction, des demandes concernant les prochaines festivités Pascales sont parvenues à cette Congrégation. Des indications générales et quelques suggestions sont offertes aux Évêques à ce sujet.

**1 – A propos de la date de Pâques.** Cœur de l'année liturgique, Pâques n'est pas une fête comme les autres: célébrée sur trois jours - le Triduum pascal - précédée du Carême et couronnée par la Pentecôte, elle ne peut être transférée.

**2 – La Messe chrismale.** En tenant compte de chaque cas concret dans les différents pays, l'Évêque a la faculté de la reporter à une date ultérieure.

**3 – Indications pour le Triduum pascal.**

Lorsque l'autorité civile et ecclésiastique a établi des restrictions, on observe ce qui suit pour le Triduum pascal.

Les Évêques donneront des indications, en accord avec la Conférence épiscopale, afin que dans l'église cathédrale et dans les églises paroissiales, même sans la participation physique des fidèles, l'Évêque et les curés célèbrent les mystères liturgiques du Triduum Pascal, en informant les fidèles de l'heure du début des célébrations afin qu'ils puissent s'unir à la prière dans leurs propres maisons. Dans ce cas, les moyens de communication télématiques en direct, et non pas enregistrés, sont utiles.

La Conférence Épiscopale et les diocèses ne devraient pas manquer d'offrir des suggestions en vue d'aider la prière familiale et personnelle.

Le **Jeudi Saint**, dans les cathédrales et les églises paroissiales, dans la mesure où cela est réellement possible au jugement de ceux de qui cela dépend, les prêtres peuvent concélébrer la messe de la Cène du Seigneur; tous les prêtres ont exceptionnellement la faculté de célébrer en ce jour, dans un endroit approprié, la messe sans peuple. Le lavement des pieds, déjà facultatif, est omis. À la fin de la messe de la Cène du Seigneur, on omet la procession, et le Saint-Sacrement est conservé dans le tabernacle. Les prêtres qui n'ont pas la possibilité de célébrer la Messe prieront plutôt les vêpres (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Le **Vendredi Saint**, dans les cathédrales et les églises paroissiales, dans la mesure où cela est réellement possible au jugement de ceux de qui cela dépend, l'Évêque / le curé célèbre la Passion du Seigneur. Dans la prière universelle, l'Évêque diocésain veillera à établir une intention particulière pour les malades, les défunts, et ceux qui se trouvent dans une situation de désarroi (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13).

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**Dimanche de Pâques. Veillée Pascale:** elle n'est célébrée que dans les cathédrales et les églises paroissiales, dans la mesure où cela est réellement possible au jugement de ceux de qui cela dépend. Pour le "début de la Veillée ou Lucernaire", on omet d'allumer le feu, on allume le cierge pascal et, en omettant la procession, on procède à l'annonce de la Pâque (*Exsultet*). Puis a lieu la "Liturgie de la Parole". Pour la "Liturgie baptismale", seules les promesses baptismales sont renouvelées (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 371, n. 55). Ensuite, on célèbre la «Liturgie eucharistique».

Ceux qui ne peuvent en aucun cas se joindre à la Veillée Pascale célébrée à l'église, prient l'Office des Lectures prescrit pour le Dimanche de Pâques (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Pour les monastères, les séminaires et les communautés religieuses, l'Évêque diocésain décidera.

Les expressions de la piété populaire et les processions qui enrichissent les jours de la Semaine Sainte et du Triduum Pascal, au jugement de l'Évêque diocésain, peuvent être transférées à d'autres jours convenables, par ex. les 14 et 15 septembre.

De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020.

De la Congrégation pour le Culte Divin et la Discipline des Sacrements, le 19 mars 2020, solennité de saint Joseph, Patron de l'Église universelle.

Robert Card. Sarah  
Préfet

✠ Arthur Roche  
Archevêque Secrétaire





CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. N. 153/20

**DECREE**  
**In time of Covid-19**

During this difficult time through which we are living because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and considering the impediment to the community celebration of the liturgy in church as per the direction of Bishops for their territories, a number of queries have come to this Congregation concerning the imminent celebration of Easter. In this regard, the following general indications are offered along with some suggestions for Bishops.

**1 – Concerning the date of Easter.** Easter is the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter Triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time.

**2 – The Chrism Mass.** Having evaluated the concrete situation in the different countries, the Bishop has the faculty to postpone it to a later date.

**3 – Indications for the Paschal Triduum.**

Wherever the civil and ecclesiastical authorities have put restrictions in place, the Sacred Triduum must be celebrated in the following way:

Bishops will give indications, which have been agreed with the Episcopal Conference, so that, in the Cathedral and parish churches, though without the physical participation of the faithful, the Bishop and parish priest(s) can celebrate the liturgical mysteries of the Paschal Triduum. The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebration so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. In this occasion, the means of live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful.

The Episcopal Conference and individual dioceses will see to it that resources are provided to support family and personal prayer.

**Holy Thursday.** In Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the priest(s) of the parish can celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests. The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose is to be omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

**Good Friday**, in Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the Bishop/Parish Priest will celebrate the Passion of the Lord. In the Universal Prayer, the Bishop will see to it that there is a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13).

### **Easter Sunday**

**The Easter Vigil:** Is to be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible. At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium" the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The "Liturgy of the Word" then takes place. For the "Baptismal Liturgy" the "Renewal of Baptismal Promises" alone is necessary (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 371, n. 55). The "Liturgy of the Eucharist" then follows.

Those who have absolutely no possibility of uniting themselves to the Paschal Vigil celebrated in a church should pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Decisions regarding monasteries, seminaries and religious communities shall be made by the Diocesan Bishop.

Expressions of popular piety and processions which enrich the days of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum can be transferred to other suitable days in the year, for example 14 and 15 September, according to the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop.

By mandate of the Supreme Pontiff, for the year 2020 only.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 19 March 2020, on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.

Robert Card. SARAH  
Prefect

✠ Arthur ROCHE  
Archbishop Secretary



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 153/20

**DECRETO**  
**En tiempo de Covid-19**

En el difícil tiempo que estamos viviendo a causa de la pandemia del Covid-19, considerando el impedimento para celebrar la liturgia comunitariamente en la iglesia según lo indicado por los obispos para los territorios bajo su jurisdicción, han llegado a esta Congregación peticiones concernientes a las próximas fiestas pascales. En este sentido, se ofrecen indicaciones generales y algunas sugerencias a los Obispos.

1 – **Sobre la fecha de la Pascua.** La Pascua, corazón del año litúrgico, no es una fiesta como las demás: celebrada durante tres días, el Triduo Pascual, precedida por la Cuaresma y coronada por Pentecostés, no puede ser trasladada.

2 – **La Misa crismal.** El Obispo, valorando el caso concreto en los diversos países, tiene la facultad para posponerla a una fecha posterior.

3 – **Indicaciones para el Triduo Pascual.**

Donde la autoridad civil y eclesial ha establecido restricciones, se siga lo siguiente.

Los Obispos darán indicaciones, de acuerdo con la Conferencia Episcopal, para que en la iglesia catedral y en las iglesias parroquiales, incluso sin la participación física de los fieles, el Obispo y los párrocos celebren los misterios litúrgicos del Triduo Pascual, avisando a los fieles la hora del inicio, de modo que puedan unirse en oración desde sus propias casas. En este caso son de gran ayuda los medios de comunicación telemática en directo, no grabados.

La Conferencia Episcopal y cada una de las diócesis no dejen de ofrecer subsidios para ayudar en la oración familiar y personal.

El **Jueves Santo**, en las iglesias catedrales y parroquiales, en la medida de la posibilidad real establecida por aquellos a quienes compete, los sacerdotes de la parroquia pueden celebrar la Misa en la Cena del Señor; se concede excepcionalmente a todos los sacerdotes la facultad de celebrar en este día la Misa sin el pueblo, en un lugar adecuado. El lavatorio de los pies, que es facultativo, se omite. Al final de la Misa en la Cena del Señor se omite la procesión y el Santísimo Sacramento se reserva en el sagrario. Los sacerdotes que no tienen la posibilidad de celebrar la Misa rezarán las Vísperas (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

El **Viernes Santo**, en las iglesias catedrales y parroquiales, en la medida de la posibilidad real establecida por aquellos a quienes compete, el Obispo/el párroco celebra la Pasión del Señor. En la oración universal el Obispo diocesano se encargará de establecer una especial intención por los enfermos, los muertos, quien ha sufrido alguna pérdida (cf. *Missale Romanum*, p. 314, n.13).

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**Domingo de Pascua. Vigilia Pascual:** ésta se celebra solo en las iglesias catedrales y parroquiales, en la medida de la posibilidad real establecida por aquellos a quienes compete. Para el “Inicio de la vigilia o lucernario” se omite el fuego, se enciende el cirio y, omitida la procesión, se hace el pregón pascual (*Exsúltet*). Sigue la “Liturgia de la Palabra”. En la “Liturgia bautismal” solo se renuevan las promesas bautismales (cf. *Missale Romanum*, p. 371, n. 55). Posteriormente la “Liturgia eucarística”.

Para quienes no pueden unirse a la Vigilia Pascual celebrada en la iglesia, recen el Oficio de Lectura indicado para el Domingo de Pascua (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Para los monasterios, seminarios y comunidades religiosas, decida el Obispo diocesano.

Las expresiones de piedad popular y las procesiones que enriquecen los días de la Semana Santa y del Triduo Pascual, a juicio del Obispo diocesano podrán ser trasladadas a otros días convenientes, por ejemplo, el 14 y 15 de septiembre.

*De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020.*

En la Sede de la Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos, 19 de marzo de 2020, solemnidad de San José, Patrón de la Iglesia universal.

Robert Card. Sarah  
Prefecto

✠ Arthur Roche  
Arzobispo Secretario





## ***Office of the General Secretary***

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
*President*

**Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, S.T.D.**  
*General Secretary*

Msgr. Jeffrey D. Burrill, S.T.L.  
Theresa Ridderhoff, M.Ed.  
Anthony R. Picarello, Esq.  
*Associate General Secretaries*

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary *JB*

Date: March 21, 2020

Subject: Observance of Holy Week in 2020

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Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

I take this opportunity to convey to you the attached memorandum from His Excellency Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford and Chairman, USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, which provides further indications based on the recent Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (<http://bishoponly.usccb.org/bishoponly/2020/20-074.pdf>) which was forwarded yesterday to all bishops.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this memorandum.



## Committee on Divine Worship

3211 FOURTH STREET NE · WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 · 202-541-3060 · FAX 202-541-3088

### MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Most Rev. Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford  
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Divine Worship

Date: March 21, 2020

Re: Observance of Holy Week in 2020

We can be grateful to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for a decree dated March 19, 2020 (Prot. N. 153/20) which provides direction for the celebration of the Chrism Mass and the Sacred Triduum during this time of a pandemic. The Decree has been circulated to the bishops and is meant to help them and their priests to adapt to the present circumstances.

The Congregation's Decree states that its purpose is to provide "general indications... along with some suggestions for Bishops." It may be helpful to note that *indicazioni* in the Italian text can be translated as "information, suggestions or advice." The decree also says that the "indications" given by local bishops should be in agreement with the Episcopal Conference. Given the size of our country, the particular situations of our many dioceses, and the measures taken by civil authorities in each, no general consultation among all the bishops of the Conference would appear to be necessary or even feasible. Diocesan bishops can apply the "indications" given by the Congregation according to their prudent judgment.

In light of this, the USCCB Secretariat on Divine Worship wishes to provide the following observations based on what is stated both in the Decree and in the Roman Missal. Other specific questions about celebrating the rites are sure to arise, and the local bishop can work with his clergy to find appropriate solutions.

If the **Chrism Mass** is postponed, it might be helpful to remind priests to continue to use their current oil stocks until new oils have been blessed and consecrated. *Pastoral Care of the Sick* contains provisions for the *ad hoc* blessing of the Oil of the Sick if necessary, and the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* does the same for the blessing of the Oil of Catechumens, should a priest need more of those oils. If the Diocesan bishop does celebrate the Chrism Mass at the usual time, the new oils could be kept for distribution at a later time, but in some cases they might even be distributed to parishes right away.

On **Good Friday** the Roman Missal says that the Diocesan bishop may "permit or order the addition of a special intention" to the Solemn Intercessions. What follows is offered as a sample petition modelled on the liturgical prayers of Good Friday:



## Committee on Divine Worship

3211 FOURTH STREET NE · WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 · 202-541-3060 · FAX 202-541-3088

### XI. For an end to the pandemic

**Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end  
to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world,  
that our God and Father will heal the sick,  
strengthen those who care for them,  
and help us all to persevere in faith.**

**Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:**

**Almighty and merciful God,  
source of all life, health and healing,  
look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease;  
protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us  
and in your fatherly providence  
grant recovery to the stricken,  
strength to those who care for them,  
and success to those working to eradicate this scourge.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

**R. Amen.**

Also on **Good Friday**, for the Adoration of the Holy Cross it will surely be best, if more than one person is assisting, to express reverence to the Cross without kissing or touching it. A genuflection or profound bow would be appropriate.

The ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*** includes provision for a delay in the celebration of the sacraments. For example, the bishop can dispense from the Scrutinies (n. 20); the bishop can permit an abbreviated form of initiation (nn. 331 ff.); and the rites can be celebrated at other times of the year (nn. 26-30).

## **The Blessing of the Oil of the Sick**

God of all consolation,  
you chose and sent your Son to Heal the world.  
Graciously listen to our prayer of faith:  
send the power of your Holy Spirit, the Consoler,  
into this precious oil, this soothing ointment,  
this rich gift, this fruit of the earth.  
Bless this oil + and sanctify it for our use.  
Make this oil a remedy for all who are anointed with it;  
heal them in body, in soul, and in spirit,  
and deliver them in every affliction.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **The Blessing of the Oil of the Catechumens**

Lord God,  
protector of all who believe in you,  
bless + this oil  
and give wisdom and strength to all who are anointed with it  
in preparation for their Baptism.  
Bring them to a deeper understanding of the Gospel,  
help them to accept the challenge of Christian living,  
and lead them to the joy of new birth  
in the family of your Church,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.