

**Office of Worship**  
**Diocese of Honolulu**

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## **Memorandum**

TO: Clergy and Parishes

FROM: Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director  
Office of Worship

DATE: March 27, 2020

RE: Directives for the Celebration of the Holy Week-Triduum and Easter during  
the COVID-19

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (CDWDS) of the Holy See, promulgated a decree dated March 19, 2020, and mandated by Pope Francis, providing directives concerning the celebration of the upcoming Holy Week and Paschal Triduum during this serious health crisis. In response to this decree the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) outlines specific “indications” for what is to be followed this year (2020) only.

This memorandum is being sent to specify what is to be followed in the Diocese of Honolulu during Holy Week and Easter this year. Please strictly follow these Directives without making ANY deviation from them. We do understand that these Directives call for a change from the “normal” Holy Week observances, but these measures are necessary and have been approved and mandated by the highest ecclesiastical Authority.

Since the date of Easter cannot be transferred, and due to the restrictions we are under at this time ***“Bishops and priests may celebrate the rites of Holy Week without the presence of the people and in a suitable place”*** [from the decree of the CDWDS, in time of COVID-19]. All celebrations indicated here must be “without the physical participation of the faithful.” ***“The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebrations so they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. In this occasion, the means of live-streamed broadcasts are helpful.”*** [Decree: CDWDS].

Please note, this means the people may not be invited to participate even outside the church (e.g., parking lot, open area, etc.), as this violates the order given through the civil authorities regarding gathering in crowds. However, at these “private” celebrations on Sundays or during Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, priests in the parish may concelebrate; one deacon, one lector, no more than two altar servers, one cantor and one accompanist may participate. If the service is to be live-streamed the minimal number of technicians possible may also attend. All are to observe current recommended “social-distancing” regulations and are to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after the service.

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

There will be no general distribution of palms. The priest should bless palm branches for the handful of ministers present, but without the Procession.

## PASCHAL TRIDUUM

***“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 ... Wherever the civil and ecclesiastical authorities have put restrictions in place, the Sacred Triduum must be celebrated in the following way...”*** [Decree: CDWDS].

The decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments provided suggestions for the celebrations. The following are some of the suggestions with minor adaptations for our diocese.

- **THURSDAY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER:**

- Bishop/Priest(s) will celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening and, without the physical presence of the faithful, except those necessary ministers noted above.
- The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day in a suitable place (e.g., a side chapel rather than the parish church), is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests by the Holy See.
- At this private Mass the washing of feet, which is already optional, **is to be omitted**.
- Sufficient hosts should be consecrated for the small number of ministers permitted at this Mass and at least for the number of ministers anticipated at the private Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion. Hosts from the tabernacle should not be used for this Mass. (*Local directive*.)
- 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.
- There is NO public adoration following the Mass.
- Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).
- If you have a parish website, you may wish to encourage your parishioners to join in the Evening Prayer of the Church for Holy Thursday or to follow the Mass as it is live-streamed.

- **GOOD FRIDAY:**

- The public celebrations of the Solemn Liturgical Action of Good Friday and any public celebration of the Stations of the Cross are suspended until further notice.
- The Decree from CDWDS provides for the transfer of the Veneration of the Cross to a suitable future date, for example, September 14<sup>th</sup> – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion must still include the Veneration of the Cross, but in the manner discussed below.
- Priests may celebrate the Passion of the Lord privately.

- On Good Friday, 2020, the following prayer will be added to the Universal Prayers (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13):
  - Prayer XI: **For special needs of the sick and dead affected by the coronavirus**
    - Let us pray for our world, which has been so radically impacted by the coronavirus crisis; for those who contracted the disease and those who care for them; for medical personnel and researchers; for those who have suffered economically; and for a complete and speedy recovery from this crisis.
    - **Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:**
      - Almighty God of all the living, you are our strength and our salvation. Hear and answer our prayers for all affected by this crisis. Open our hearts to the firm hope that this cross we bear may ultimately lead to the joy of the freedom from this scourge. Through Christ our Lord.
    - **R/. Amen.**
- The Second Form (simple) of The Showing of the Holy Cross should be used. Without a congregation, “for the Adoration of the Cross, first the Priest Celebrant alone approaches... Then the clergy...” (RM, Good Friday, 18). Reverencing is to be done by a profound bow or genuflection only, without kissing or touching the cross.

- **EASTER VIGIL:**

- The Easter Vigil is to be celebrated (without the physical presence of the faithful, except those few ministers needed for the celebration) in the Cathedral and parish churches.
  - **NOTE: The Sacraments of Initiation for the elect and candidates are to be postponed. Please immediately notify the candidates, their sponsors and all others involved that guidance will be provided at a future date as to when these Sacraments will be celebrated after the COVID-19 crisis subsides. A future date when these Sacraments may be rescheduled will be made by the Bishop and is not at the prerogative of the local Pastor/Administrator.**
- At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium" the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is (simply) lit, the procession is omitted, and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows.
- The "Liturgy of the Word" then takes place, following the rubrics in the Roman Missal.
- 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.
- Clergy who are not able to participate in the Paschal Vigil celebrated in a church should pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Please feel free to contact me at the Office of Worship, 808-585-3342 or email at [mcordero@rcchawaii.org](mailto:mcordero@rcchawaii.org) should you have any questions.

Our Lady of Peace, patroness of the Diocese of Honolulu, pray for us!

Lenten and Easter Blessings!