



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
2024 GUIDELINES FOR EASTER
FROM THE OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

These guidelines are for priests, deacons, musicians, sacristans, members of the parish liturgy committee, art and environment committee and all involved in liturgy. Please forward as necessary.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD / Passion Sunday 24 March 2024

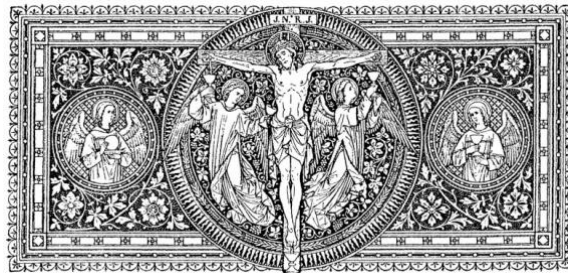
- The blessing of Palms may be followed by a procession; if so, one must remember that this is not an historical re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but a ritual action that marks OUR entry into HOLY WEEK and the celebration of CHRIST'S PASSOVER.
- Three forms of Entrance are offered for the beginning of the Liturgy this day:
 - ✓ The Procession (*omit the Penitential Act*)
 - ✓ The solemn entrance (*omit the Penitential Act*)
 - ✓ The simple entrance (*retain the Penitential Act*)
- The proclaimed Reading of the Passion is *essential* to the Palm Sunday Liturgy:
 - ✓ It cannot be omitted.
 - ✓ It may be proclaimed by using one, two or three readers.
 - ✓ Lay persons are allowed to proclaim any of the parts (Narrator, Voice, *Christ*).
 - ✓ The part of Christ, if possible, should be reserved to a priest.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK 25 March 2024

- Confessions are heard in Parishes throughout the Diocese – and in many dioceses – this day for extended periods preferably from 11am-1pm and 5pm-7pm.
- The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – This year, due to Holy Week, the Solemnity of the Annunciation is transferred from 25 March to Monday 8 April 2024.

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 26 March 2024 at 6:00 pm

- THE CHRISM MASS will be celebrated at St. Joseph Cathedral.
Details are on the Events Calendar - Diocese of Manchester (catholicnh.org).



THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Lent ends with the beginning of the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is the principal liturgy of the day.

HOLY THURSDAY 28 March 2024

- The TABERNACLE is EMPTY before the Liturgy begins. The Tabernacle door is OPEN.
- Beforehand, in addition to all of the usual items (chalice, purificator, paten with host, pall, corporal, wine and water, lavabo dish and towel, etc.) for the celebration of such a solemn Mass on such a solemn occasion, there should be prepared:
 - ✓ The place of repose (Repository) where the Blessed Sacrament will remain after the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Procession and the Solemn Service of Good Friday. The Repository remains intact and available with the Blessed Sacrament reposed throughout Good Friday, for private devotion of the Faithful. (the Roman Missal does not direct the dismantling of the Repository, but says only that there is no formal adoration after midnight on Holy Thursday.
 - ✓ The Blessed Sacrament will be carried (without solemn procession) from the Repository to the Altar at the proper time during the Good Friday Service of the Passion.
 - ✓ The Blessed Oils in appropriate containers (*not the little bottles used only for distribution from the Chrism Mass*), if they are to be presented or displayed.
 - ✓ Enough hosts for Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion at the Good Friday Solemn Service.
 - ✓ A Ciborium that will be large enough for the number of Consecrated Hosts to be reserved, yet sized to fit the Repository Tabernacle.
 - ✓ Chalices and purificators (if the Precious Blood is to be partaken of by the faithful).
 - ✓ Bells which are to be rung during the Glory to God.
 - ✓ If there will be a carrying out of *The Mandatum* (Washing of the Feet), then the appropriate number of chairs to accommodate the twelve participants, a basin, pitcher(s) of warmed water and sufficient towels.
 - ✓ Processional Cross, two candles, thurible with charcoal, and incense.
 - ✓ Humeral Veil for carrying the Most Blessed Sacrament in procession.
 - ✓ A canopy or umbrelino, though rare in the U.S., may be used.

- Following the prayer after communion
 - ✓ The Eucharist is transferred to the place of reposition.
 - ✓ The place of reposition should be simply decorated.
 - ✓ Under no circumstances is the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed in a monstrance.
 - ✓ It is not permitted to reserve the Precious Blood for adoration on Holy Thursday and for distribution on Good Friday. (Norms #30).
 - ✓ After midnight the adoration should take place without solemnity but the chapel of reposition may be open for prayer until the celebration of the Good Friday Service.

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD *29 March 2024*

- The principal celebration of this day should take place at about three o'clock.
- The Priest wearing Mass vestments (red stole and chasuble) is the celebrant for this liturgy.
- Before the Showing of the Cross the Holy Land Collection is to be taken up.
- During the Adoration of the Cross, only one cross should be used, unless the number of people is too great.
- First Form of showing the Cross:
 - ✓ The deacon or another suitable minister goes to the sacristy and obtains the veiled cross.
 - ✓ Two ministers with lighted candles accompany the cross and minister to the center of the sanctuary.
 - ✓ The priest accepts the cross and standing before the altar and facing the people, uncovers the upper part of the cross, the right arm and then the entire cross. Each time he sings "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world".
 - ✓ At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the priest stands and holds the Cross raised.
- Second Form of showing the Cross:
 - ✓ The priest or deacon accompanied with ministers goes to the door of the church, where he receives the unveiled Cross.
 - ✓ Near the door, in the middle of the church and before the entrance of the sanctuary, two ministers with lighted candles accompany the cross and minister as he elevates and sings, "Behold the wood of the Cross..."
 - ✓ At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the cross is raised by the minister.
- Adoration of the Holy Cross
 - ✓ While the Cross is being adored by the faithful it may be held by a minister or placed on a simply decorated table.
 - ✓ Candles are placed on both sides of the Cross.
- Holy Communion
 - ✓ With a humeral veil the deacon or priest brings the ciborium to the altar from the place of reposition by a shorter route than taken on Holy Thursday.
 - ✓ After Communion either the deacon or priest takes the ciborium to a place prepared outside the church, or, if circumstances require, may place it in the tabernacle.
 - ✓ After saying "Let us pray" there is to be some period of sacred silence before the prayer after Communion.

- ✓ After the prayer after Communion all depart after genuflecting toward the Cross and depart in silence.
- ✓ The altar is stripped after the celebration, but the Cross remains on the altar with two or four candlesticks.

HOLY SATURDAY | THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 30 March 2024

- Referring to the rubrics for Holy Saturday found in the Roman Missal will be helpful to those involved in the preparation of this “mother of all vigils”.
- The Easter Vigil should begin at a time that allows for a new fire to break the darkness of night. The entire celebration of this vigil should take place at night, that is, it should begin after nightfall and end before the dawn of Sunday (Universal Norms, #21). This rule is to be taken according to its *strictest* sense. The Easter Vigil is not to be celebrated at the time of day that it is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses. **In the Diocese of Manchester the Easter Vigil should not begin before 7:30 pm.**
- The Service of Light
 - ✓ In a suitable and safe place outside the church a “blazing fire” is to be prepared. In case of inclement weather a smaller alcohol fire may be prepared in the church.
 - ✓ After the blessing of the fire, the Paschal Candle is then prepared according to the Rites in the Roman Missal.
 - ✓ After the Rites, the priest lights the candle from the fire and says: “May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds”.
 - ✓ All should be holding unlit candles.
 - ✓ The proclamation “The Light of Christ” is sung at the door of the church (after which the priest lights his candle), in the middle of the church (after which all light their candles), and before the altar, facing the people.
 - ✓ **Following the third “The Light of Christ” the electric lights are lit throughout the church.**
 - ✓ The *Exsultet* should be sung by one who can do so with grace and beauty.
- The Liturgy of the Word
 - ✓ Nine readings are assigned to the Easter vigil: seven from the Old Testament, two from the New. If absolutely necessary, the number of readings may be reduced. At least three Old Testament readings must be read, including reading number three from Exodus.
 - ✓ After the last reading from the Old Testament with its Responsorial Psalm and its prayer, **the altar candles are lit** and the Gloria is sung, while the bells are rung.
 - ✓ After the Epistle has been read, all rise, and the priest intones the solemn Alleluia three times.

- The Baptismal Liturgy
 - ✓ For this part of the Vigil refer to the Roman Missal and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.
 - ✓ The priest is the minister who baptizes the adults and the children.
 - ✓ Adults and children of catechetical age being baptized or brought into Full Communion during the Vigil are to be confirmed by the presiding priest.
 - ❖ Adults who have already received Baptism and Eucharist in the Catholic Church are to be Confirmed by the Bishop at a parish Confirmation Ceremony or at the Spring or Fall Adult Confirmation.
 - ❖ The Spring Adult Confirmation is Sunday 7 April 2024 at 2 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral. Registration information will be forthcoming.
 - ✓ “During the Easter Vigil, the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist – are ordinarily celebrated. The assembly should join in singing responses and acclamations during the Litany of the Saints, the acclamations for and at the conclusion of the blessing prayer over the baptismal water, and the acclamations following each Baptism. There may be a song between the celebration of Baptism and Confirmation, especially if the neophytes need to change into dry clothing or if there is a procession from the font to the sanctuary. A song may also be sung during Confirmation as the neophytes are anointed with chrism, especially if a large number of persons are being confirmed.”
(*Sing to the Lord*, #206)

- The Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - ✓ The Missal provides a solemn blessing to conclude the liturgy.

EASTER SUNDAY AND THE EASTER SEASON 31 March 2024

- The first eight days of the Easter Season make up the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord.
 - ✓ The Paschal Candle is lit for liturgies during the Octave of Easter and on all solemn liturgical celebrations in the Easter Season.
 - ✓ At all Masses on Easter Sunday, the prescribed sequence – *Victimae Paschali Laudes* (Christians, Praise the Paschal Victim) – is sung after the second reading and before the Gospel Acclamation. It may be sung by all together, or in alternation between the congregation and choir and cantor, or by the choir or cantor alone. If the chant setting is used, it may be sung in Latin or English or another setting may be sung provided that it is found in an approved collection (*Sing to the Lord*, #165-166). If sung by the Cantor alone, it is ideally sung from the Ambo, although another suitable place may be used.
 - ✓ At all Masses on Easter Sunday the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and its accompanying sprinkling rite may replace the Creed and Penitential Rite.
 - ✓ During the Easter Season the Sprinkling Rite may replace the more usual Penitential Rite.
 - ✓ The double Alleluia is sung throughout the Easter Octave, but NEVER sung BEYOND the LAST MASS of the SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.
 - ✓ The double Alleluia is then added to the sung dismissal on Pentecost Sunday.

WEDDING MASSES

Ritual Masses for the Celebration of Marriage may not take place on Ash Wednesday, on Sundays of Lent, during Holy Week, during the Paschal Triduum, or on Sundays of Easter. “The celebration of Marriage on Friday of the Passion of the Lord and on Holy Saturday is to be avoided altogether.” Marriages may take place at other times during Lent according to the proper liturgical norms and provisions (it is important to be mindful that should the *Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage* be used, the use of the Gloria is prescribed even during the season of Lent). It is contrary to the penitential spirit of the season to have overly elaborate weddings or lavish receptions. Those who need to have marriages convalidated before the Easter Vigil should do so prior to Holy Week, not on Holy Saturday or during the Great vigil of Easter.

FUNERAL MASSES

Funeral Masses are not to be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday, nor on the Sundays of Lent. When pastoral considerations necessitate that a funeral be celebrated on these days, the Liturgy of the Word with the Final Commendation and Farewell may be conducted.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – This year, due to Holy Week, the Solemnity of the Annunciation is transferred from 25 March to Monday 8 April 2024.
 - ✓ All are asked to genuflect at “and by the Holy Spirit” in the Creed.
- Fourth Sunday of Easter: *21 April 2024*
 - ✓ World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated this day. Prayers for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life should be inserted into the General Intercessions at Mass.
- Ascension Thursday: *9 May 2024*
- Pentecost Sunday: *19 May 2024*
- Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: *26 May 2024*
- Ordination to the Order of Presbyter: *Saturday 1 June 2024*
- The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi): *2 June 2024*
- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: *Friday 7 June 2024*
 - ✓ World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests: *Friday 7 June 2024*

❖ *LITURGICAL QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE FOR WORSHIP, 603-622-6404, x17*