

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE RISK OF COVID-19

Guidelines and procedures

Updated March 18, 2021¹

REMINDER AND CLARIFICATION: CAPACITY OF PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE RED ZONE

As of Friday, March 26, the places of worship will be able to accommodate a maximum of 25 people, just in time for the Holy Week ceremonies. The diocesan leadership team wishes to highlight the importance of **opening all places of worship to the public** for this sacred time in the Christian life.

However, the following guidelines must be observed:

- The wearing of a response mask (procedure mask) **is mandatory**. **Single-use masks** with elastic bands around the ears **are only permitted**. We ask that you offer a mask to all those who will be participating in liturgical celebrations, as well as to volunteers.
- The measure requiring the mandatory keeping of an attendance register is still in effect.
- A distance of 2 meters must be maintained at all times between persons who do not reside at the same address.
- A singer is permitted for liturgical celebrations. Choirs are always prohibited.
- The number of participants does not include those providing the religious service: 25 is the maximum number of people in the nave.

¹ These measures either are in addition to, or clarify those already in force in the diocese.

- If you are broadcasting the Mass in another room of the worship space with a separate entrance (such as the basement), you may accommodate another 25 people.

It is strongly recommended to continue videoing and broadcasting the celebrations on social networks for those who will not be able to join the liturgical gatherings.

We are awaiting indications from the government authorities regarding the celebration of weddings in places of worship: further information will be communicated to you soon.

PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY WEEK

The instructions issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in March 2020 still apply. In our diocese, the Bishop makes the following indications:

Palm Sunday

The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used.

Chrism Mass

- Bishop Hamelin will preside over a celebration with a group of 25 participants representative of the diocesan reality.
- Additional information will be sent to you shortly about the distribution of the Holy Oils and the Holy Chrism.

Holy Thursday

- The washing of the feet, already optional, is omitted.
- At the end of the Mass in memory of the Lord's Supper, the procession will also be omitted, and the Blessed Sacrament will be kept in the tabernacle.
- On this day, all priests have the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people.

Good Friday

- In the Universal Prayer, a special intention will be prepared for those in distress, for the sick, for the deceased.
- The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the celebrant.

Easter Vigil

- The Service of Light
 - There is no blessing of the Easter fire;
 - The Paschal candle will be present in the choir: it will be lit with a new match;
 - The candles of the faithful will be lit in a safe manner;
 - The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) may be read or sung.

- Liturgy of the Word
 - Readings are chosen according to the lectionary suggestions.

- Baptismal Liturgy
 - The rites of the blessing of the water and the sprinkling are omitted. Only the “Renewal of Baptismal Promises” is maintained.

- Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - The usual norms have to be followed.

At all times, the movement of liturgical speakers and members of the congregation will be kept to a minimum, always maintaining the distance of 2 meters between people.