

Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP’S OFFICE

 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, March 25, 2020

**Re: Holy Week and the Celebration of the Paschal Triduum 2020**

Reverend and Dear Fathers,

After reviewing the ***Decree:*** ***In Time of COVID-19***, issued by mandate of our Holy Father, Pope Francis and published by the Offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 153/20) on March 19, 2020. I, direct that the following to be observed during Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum 2020 in the Diocese of Kamloops.

The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in observing the Holy Week liturgies in their homes.

1. **Palm Sunday** will be celebrated privately by parish priests.
2. The **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated on April 7th, 2020 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral by the Bishop. Priests are welcome; but are not expected to come or concelebrate. The Holy Oils will be distributed to the parishes at a later date.
3. The celebration of the **Sacred Triduum** is NOT to be celebrated in public. Given the restrictions and limitations on public gatherings currently in force by the Provincial Health Ministry of British Columbia and the number of ministers required for the observance of the Sacred Triduum, it is not possible to celebrate the various rites with the physical participation of the faithful.
4. The only exception for celebrating the Sacred Triduum is the cloistered Carmelite Monastery in Armstrong, provided that the mandatory social distancing is observed. These celebrations are not open to the public.
5. Priests are permitted to celebrate privately the **Mass of the Lord’s Supper** on Holy Thursday. The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day without the people is granted in an exceptional manner by the Holy See to all priests. 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.
6. The **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on** **Good Friday** is NOT to be observed. Instead, priests are encouraged to read the Passion of the Lord and pray the Universal Prayer from the liturgy of the day, and include prayers for all whose lives are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. The **Easter Vigil** is NOT to be celebrated in any parish in the Diocese. Priests are to pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday. The Sacraments of Christian Initiation and the reception of candidates for Full Communion are to be postponed until a later date.
8. On **Easter Sunday**, priests are to celebrate Mass, without the presence of the faithful. During the Mass, they are to light the Paschal Candle and bless water using the formula on page 358 (no. 54) in the Roman Missal.

I have also attached two documents issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary for your information and guidance on the added care of the faithful during the current pandemic:

* Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic; and,
* Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current pandemic, 20.03.2020

May our Most Holy Mother and St. Joseph obtain for us the grace and strength to listen to the Word of the Lord, *“Be still and know that I am God”* *(Psalm 46:10),*

 *“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20).*

Sincerely yours in Christ,



  Joseph Phuong Nguyen

 Bishop of Kamloops

*att: Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic*

 *Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current pandemic*