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# **PASCHAL TRIDUUM 2021**

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## **CELEBRATING IN LIGHT OF COVID-19**

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**UPDATED**

**Dated 23 March 2021**

## Introduction

When COVID-19 first appeared in 2020 and Australia and Australians responded by going into a state of 'lockdown', the celebration of Easter was just a few weeks away. The changing landscape of Church life in March 2020 presented a great challenge to celebrating the liturgical highpoint of the year.

We can all be grateful that we managed to navigate that landscape with grace and dignity and, while we weren't able to celebrate Easter in 2020 in the way we would prefer, we were able to mark this highly significant event as best we could in the circumstances.

One year later, as we start to contemplate how we will celebrate Easter in 2021, the challenge of COVID-19 remains with us and this will have a significant impact on the 'how' of celebrating Easter 2021 but not the 'if'.

The purpose of this document, then, is simply to bring to the attention of parishes some particular aspects of the Paschal Triduum that may need special consideration in planning to celebrate Easter in 2021.

Given the variety of communities and church buildings across the Diocese, there can be no 'one size fits all' response. It is hoped that what is included in this document might assist in making your community's celebration of the Paschal Triduum all that it can be in light of ongoing challenges.

Commentary and advice has been provided only where it is considered necessary so as not to confuse or overload readers with information.

## Relationship to Other Advice

In reading this document, please be aware that it should be read in conjunction with the latest version of **COVID-19 Pandemic Event: Advice, Guidance and Instructions to Parishes** issued by the Vicar General. The requirements of the latter document must be observed and adhered to when preparing for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum in 2021.

This document does not deviate from the requirements of **COVID-19 Pandemic Event: Advice, Guidance and Instructions to Parishes**.

Your attention is drawn, especially, to the requirements around singing contained in the **COVID-19 Pandemic Event: Advice, Guidance and Instructions to Parishes**.

## Palm Sunday

*Although not part of the Paschal Triduum liturgically, parishes are encouraged to consider the following matters:*

### Supply and Distribution of Palms/Greenery

*Given the general health advice about the handing of items from hand to hand, great care should be exercised in connection with supplying and distributing palms or greenery on Palm Sunday. It may be more prudent for parishes to encourage parishioners to bring their own piece of greenery this year – and to advertise this well in advance.*

*Where parishes continue to supply palms or greenery, they should not be handed out to parishioners but collected by parishioners from a basket or other holder.*

### Processions

*The general health advice is to minimise or eliminate movement of parishioners from their seats. Parishes might like to consider how best to celebrate the opening of the Palm Sunday Mass in light of this, and modify or adapt as necessary to the demands of their own locations.*

## Thursday of the Lord's Supper

### **First Part: Introductory Rites**

Entrance Procession and Hymn

Greeting

Gloria

Collect

### **Second Part: Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

## Washing of the Feet

*The Washing of the Feet is always an optional though highly symbolic part of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Given the need to observe good hygiene practices, it is probably appropriate to omit it this year.*

*If parishes decide to include the Washing of the Feet, please be aware of the following recommendations:*

- *The priest, ministers, and participants may prefer to wear a mask for the Washing of the Feet.*
- *Clean water is to be poured from a jug onto the feet without touching the feet*
- *A separate container is used for each person to receive the water being poured over the feet*
- *The priest is careful to avoid touching the feet while drying them with a towel*
- *A fresh towel is used for each person*
- *The priest washes or sanitises his hands after the Washing of the Feet*

*If omitted, preachers may be able to highlight the significance of the symbol during the Homily, even in its absence.*

## Third Part: Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Presentation of Gifts

*Care will need to be exercised here to ensure appropriate precautions are observed. See the suggestions in **COVID-19 Pandemic Event: Advice, Guidance and Instructions to Parishes**, under the heading **Mass, Adaptations to**.*

### Prayer Over the Gifts

### Eucharistic Prayer

### Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

The Rite of Peace

The Fraction Rite

Communion

Prayer after Communion

### Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament

Incensing

Procession to the place of repose

*Given the current public health advice, it may be a wise course of action not to have a separate place of repose this year, and to simply make use of the tabernacle. This would mean that the customary procession of the Blessed Sacrament is replaced with a simple movement from altar to tabernacle.*

Silent prayer/adoration

Ministers depart

(Stripping of the Altar/sanctuary)

## **Friday of the Passion of the Lord**

Entrance and Prayer

### **First Part: Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

Solemn Intercessions

*In 2020, an additional petition was added to the Solemn Intercessions. The Bishops of NSW have asked that this petition be included again in 2021. Bishop Bill has authorised its inclusion within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.*

*The text of the petition is as follows:*

#### **IX b. For the afflicted in time of pandemic**

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
 only support of our human weakness,  
 look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children  
 who suffer because of this pandemic;  
 relieve the pain of the sick,  
 give strength to those who care for them,  
 welcome into your peace those who have died  
 and, throughout this time of tribulation,  
 grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
 R. Amen

*A reminder that only the Bishop can authorise any additional petition beyond the normal ten.*

## **Second Part: The Adoration of the Holy Cross**

The Showing of the Holy Cross

The Adoration of the Holy Cross

*The Adoration of the Cross presents a significant difficulty in light of COVID-19 with the combined issues of procession and adoration of the Cross. The following suggestions are made:*

- *Any procession for the Adoration of the Cross be carefully managed by 'marshals' to ensure that appropriate physical distancing is maintained during the procession.*
- *The Adoration of the Cross must take place without physical contact with the Cross, e.g. genuflection, profound bow, etc.*
- *In lieu of a procession, all could be invited to kneel in place for a short period of silent prayer and reflection.*

## **Third Part: Holy Communion**

Preparation of the Altar and bringing of Blessed Sacrament

*If the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle at the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening, the bringing of the Blessed Sacrament takes the simple form of movement from tabernacle to altar. It would seem incongruous for this simple movement to attract the usual accompaniment of candles.*

The Lord's Prayer

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Prayer Over the People

Ministers depart in silence

## **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (WITH BAPTISM)**

*To assist in your planning for the Easter Vigil, the time of 'Nautical Twilight' on Holy Saturday night is 7:40pm. This is recommended as the earliest time at which the Vigil should begin: "The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on the Sunday" (Roman Missal).*

*Parishes are also reminded that it is never appropriate to celebrate the Easter Vigil at the usual time of the Saturday evening Mass: "Reprehensible are those abuses and practices that have crept into many places in violation of this ruling, whereby the Easter Vigil is celebrated at the time of day that it is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses" (Paschale Solemnitatis, 80).*

### **First Part: The Lucernarium (or solemn beginning of the Vigil)**

The Blessing of the Fire and the Preparation of the Candle

Procession

*The opening of the Easter Vigil in 2021 will need to take into consideration a preference that attendees do not unnecessarily move from their seats. This may require the lighting of the Paschal Candle to take on a different format – perhaps a simple lighting of the candle as in 2020.*

*A procession into the church behind the new Paschal Candle would appear to be at odds with the current public health advice. Parishes will need to consider how this part of the Vigil liturgy takes place.*

The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

### **Second Part: The Liturgy of the Word**

Instruction

Readings – at least 3

*Reading*

*Psalm or a period of silence*

*Prayer after the reading*

Gloria

Collect

Epistle

Easter Alleluia

Gospel

Homily

### **Third Part: Baptismal Liturgy**

*There will be particular consideration needed around how to celebrate the initiation of adults in parishes that might have multiple candidates.*

*In order to minimise potential cross-contamination, it is highly recommended that parishes consider spreading candidates across the whole of the Easter Season rather than initiating multiple candidates during the Easter Vigil.*

*Such a solution is not ideal, yet it may be the better option at the moment.*

Presentation of Candidates

Introductory Statement (Invitation to Prayer)

Litany of the Saints

Blessing of Baptismal Water

*Should a parish decide to initiate multiple candidates, care should be taken to ensure that 'separate' containers are prepared for each candidate, in addition to a more general supply. An additional 'separate' container, from which the assembly is sprinkled later in the liturgy, should also be prepared.*

*It may be prudent for these 'separate' containers to be filled with water that has been boiled first.*

*The custom of distributing or permitting attendees to collect Holy Water from the Easter Vigil will need to be omitted in 2021 in line with the appropriate public health advice.*

*The water stoups are NOT to be filled with Easter Water and are to remain empty.*

Profession of Faith

*Renunciation of Sin*



*[Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens]*

*This is an optional part of the Easter Vigil, and is better celebrated at another time during the Triduum (perhaps Holy Saturday morning). In 2021, it would be preferable for this to be omitted.*

*Profession of Faith*

Baptism

Explanatory Rites

*[Anointing after Baptism]*

*Not applicable for adult baptisms since they will shortly be confirmed.*

*[Clothing with a baptismal garment]*

*Presentation of a Lighted Candle*

Confirmation

*Invitation*

*Laying on of Hands*

*Anointing with Chrism*

*It is generally preferable for candidates to be anointed with Chrism in the traditional manner, unless the use of cotton wool is requested by the candidate.*

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*Sprinkling Rite*

*The Sprinkling Rite remains possible on the proviso that the water for this purpose comes from a 'separate' container (see above).*

The Universal Prayer

## **Fourth Part: The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Presentation of Gifts (by the newly baptised)

*Care will need to be exercised here to ensure appropriate precautions are observed. See the suggestions in **COVID-19 Pandemic Event: Advice, Guidance and Instructions to Parishes**, under the heading **Mass, Adaptations to**.*

Prayer Over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

The Rite of Peace

The Fraction Rite

Communion

Prayer after Communion

### **Fifth Part: Concluding Rites**

Greeting

Solemn Blessing

Dismissal

Recessional