



LENT – EASTER 2022

CELEBRATING IN THE NEW NORMAL

Dated 25 February 2022

Introduction

As COVID restrictions are significantly eased and parishes begin preparing to celebrate Lent and Easter, people are seeking some guidance.

The following is offered to supplement to the most recent version of the more generic document 'Continuing Life during COVID-19: The New Normal.' It seeks to focus on some particular aspects of the Lent – Easter liturgies that may need special consideration.

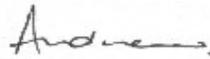
Commentary and advice have been provided only where it is considered necessary so as not to confuse or overload readers with information. Our ultimate aim remains the safety of the community.

Easter is still some weeks away and this guidance may need updating with any change to COVID restrictions.

As usual parish communities will need to adapt the guidance to local circumstances.



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Ash Wednesday

The rubrics in the Missal for the Distribution of Ashes are as follows:

He (the priest) sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything.

Then the Priest places ashes on the head of all those present who come to him, and says to each one:

Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

Or:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The 2021 Note from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments instructed the priest to sprinkle the ashes on the head.

The vagueness of the rubric leaves the presider free to organise the distribution of ashes this year as best suits the community. For some time now the 'COVID-19 Instructions and Advice to Parishes' have allowed for the use of touch in the

celebration of the Sacraments pending the comfort of families involved. The decision to use the more traditional means of distribution – marking the forehead with the cross – rests with the local community.

Lent – RCIA

For the Scrutinies it is up to the Presider to decide whether he lays hands on the Elect or holds his hands above the head. This may be determined by the number of Elect at a liturgy. If more than one, then holding hands above the head seems more appropriate.

Palm Sunday

Supply and Distribution of Palms/Greenery

It remains good practice where possible to avoid handing things to people. If the parish is supplying palms people might collect them from a central place. You may wish to continue the practice of asking people to bring their own piece of greenery.

Processions

Maintaining social distancing remains advisable. All processions involving the people therefore remain challenging. Once again it is up to the local community to consider how best to celebrate the opening of the Palm Sunday Mass.

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. Parishes may choose to include this ritual if it can be done with appropriate care. This may include:

- *Maintaining social distance and perhaps wearing masks*
- *Touch is avoided or at least limited*
- *Clean water is poured over the feet and the feet are not immersed in the bowl catching the water*
- *A fresh towel is used for each person*
- *The priest washes or sanitises his hands before and after the Washing of the Feet*

Third Part: Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of Gifts

Parishes were encouraged to reinstate the Presentation of Gifts more than a year ago. See the suggestions in COVID-19 Instructions and Advice 'The New Normal' Edition - Part III General Advice A. Adaptations to Mass.

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

It is up to the local community to determine whether you return to your usual practice of having a separate place of repose OR make use of the tabernacle which replaces the customary procession of the Blessed Sacrament 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

At this point in time there has been no renewed request from the Bishops of NSW to include additional petitions in the Solemn Intercessions. If advice changes you will be notified.

It is worth remembering that only the Bishop/Administrator 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 remains a challenge. The suggestions for 2021 remain:

- *Any procession for the Adoration of the Cross be carefully managed to ensure physical distancing is maintained.*
- *The Adoration of the Cross takes 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 without accompanying 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 **6:25pm**. 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

In seeking to maintain social distance the local community will need to determine how best to celebrate this first part of the Vigil.

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 with multiple candidates.

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. While not ideal, 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

The water is to be used once only. Multiple baptisms during the same liturgy will require preparation in advance to avoid using the same water on multiple candidates (e.g., by having the water in a large pitcher from which it can be poured).

Should a parish decide to initiate multiple candidates, follow the advice given for baptism in 'Continuing Life during COVID 19: The New Normal' (p 6). Care should be taken to ensure those being baptised do not come into contact with the water in the font. An additional 'separate' container, from which the assembly is sprinkled later in the liturgy, should also be prepared.

The custom of distributing or permitting attendees to collect Holy Water from the Easter Vigil will need to be omitted in 2022 in line with the appropriate public health advice. Parishes may organise the distribution of Easter Water during the Easter Season.

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 is 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)

As for Holy Thursday.

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