



**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN**

**Health, Safety and Environment Team**

**c/o Archbishop's House, 27 Maraval Road, Port of Spain**

**Bulletin #25**

**GUIDELINES FOR  
PALM SUNDAY  
AND  
HOLY WEEK**

**MARCH 2022**

In light of the ongoing pandemic the following principles remain for in-person worship:

- If you feel unwell or are ill, stay at home
- Before entering the building, wash or sanitize your hands
- Upon entry, have your temperature checked
- At all times wear a well-fitted mask which covers the nose and mouth
- When indoors do open doors and windows on opposite sides of the room as well as turn on fans. This action facilitates good circulation of natural air and makes an indoor space safer for the occupants who are from different households.

**Effective 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, the size of gatherings of persons in public is without any restriction in number.**

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

- May be performed outside of the church building and can include any number of worshippers.
- On Good Friday the Stations of the Cross pilgrimage may be held on the streets.  
(Please observe the same guidelines as for Palm Sunday as listed below)

### **PALM SUNDAY**

- Parishes may host a procession outside the church e.g. along the public road.
- Do liaise with local authorities in planning such an event to ensure the physical safety of participants.
- Those in attendance must use suitable coverings for their nose and mouth, both outdoors and when inside the church.
- Do distribute palms to those in attendance rather than permit them to select for themselves from a collection.
- Upon return to the church, encourage and facilitate hand washing or sanitizing.

## **THE PASSION**

- For the re-enactment and/or reading of the Passion of Christ there is no restriction on the number of lectors or actors who may participate.
  - Cantors too may move away from the choir stall i.e. stand at the lectern on the altar to lead the congregation in song.
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## **WASHING OF THE FEET ON MAUNDY THURSDAY**

***This is an optional rite that is left entirely up to the Parish Priest to include or omit.***

The minister

- must utilize the smallest number of assistants to perform the rite safely.
  - must not wear gloves.
  - ***is prohibited from kissing the feet of the penitent.***
  - must utilize a new or unused towel to dry the feet of each penitent.
  - must thoroughly wash his hands upon conclusion of the rite.
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## **VENERATION OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY**

- Worshippers may venerate the Cross with a bow or genuflection.
  - ***There is to be no kissing or touching of the statue or Cross.***
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### **THE SERVICE OF LIGHT ON GLORIA SATURDAY**

Traditionally, in a suitable place outside the Church, a "blazing fire" (rogus ardens) is to be prepared so that the people may gather around it and experience the flames dispelling the darkness and lighting up the night.

***Should the Parish Priest wish to observe this rite during this time of pandemic, only the shorter version must be used*** where-by the congregation remains in their pews while the priest and a limited number of assistants recite the prayers, bless the fire and light the Paschal Candle before re-entering the building.

### **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION ON GLORIA SATURDAY**

- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a familiar feature of the Easter Vigil and those who have been prepared may be baptized and confirmed and receive first Holy Communion.
- Ministers are reminded that, for now, anointing is to be done using cotton wool or Q-tips dipped in the Oil of Chrism and not direct skin-to-skin contact. This practice is under continual review and will be addressed in future bulletins.

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