



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

Health, Safety and Environment Team
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**Relaxation of some COVID-19 Restrictions as we
approach major Feasts**

BULLETIN #29

Issued 16th March 2023

Relaxation of some COVID-19 Restrictions as we approach major Feasts.

After careful consideration, the Archdiocese of Port of Spain has decided to relax or modify certain restrictions that were introduced in 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we near the celebration of some major Feasts such as Easter, Pentecost and Corpus Christi, we consider it timely to make the following adjustments to our COVID-19 Guidelines:

Wearing of Masks at Church Services

Wearing of masks at Church services is entirely up to the discretion of those in attendance.

Sign of Peace

Whereas the Sign of Peace was restricted to a bow of the head or a wave of the hand, it will now be permissible to 'bounce' fists or elbows with those within reach. A smile or a wave of the hand will continue to suffice where others cannot be physically reached.

The Offertory Procession

From April 3, the date of this year's Chrismal Mass, the Offertory Procession during the Liturgy will be permitted.

The Washing of Feet during the Mass of the Lord's Supper

This rite is left to the discretion of the Priest as to whether it will be included or omitted. If it is included, the Priest is not obligated to kiss the feet of the penitents.

Holy Water in the receptacles at the entrances to the Church

It is in order to resume placing Holy Water in the built-in receptacles at the entrances of our Church buildings. It is important that the receptacles be cleaned at regular intervals to ensure that the water in them is clean. (A sponge might be an effective means of emptying the water from the receptacles before re-filling them with clean water). This comes into effect after the Mass on Glorious Saturday.

Conclusion

All are encouraged to observe health guidelines such as washing their hands frequently and staying at home if they are displaying flu-like symptoms.

We will continue to review our COVID-19 Guidelines on an ongoing basis so as to relax or modify them where considered safe and appropriate to so do. Our aim is to return to pre-pandemic days where it is possible to do so without putting those who enter our buildings to unnecessary risk.

The End