



天主教香港教區禮儀委員會

HONG KONG CATHOLIC DIOCESAN LITURGY COMMISSION

10/F., Catholic Diocese Centre, 16 Caine Road, Hong Kong WebSite:<http://catholic-dlc.org.hk>
香港堅道十六號教區中心十樓 Tel:(852)2522 7577 Fax:(852)2521 8034 Email:hkcdlc@catholic-dlc.org.hk

Kindly circulate to all priests and deacons. Thank you very much.

13 February 2020

To: Parish Priests and House Superiors of Religious Institutes / Societies of Apostolic Life /
Personal Prelature

Dear Reverend Father / Brother / Sister,

As directed by Cardinal John Tong, in view of the need for combating the viral epidemic, our Diocese has to suspend the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday, the Rite of Election, and the scrutinies at parish and diocesan level, and to postpone the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to Pentecost, 31 May. Likewise the Sacraments of Confirmation and Infant Baptism would be suspended as well.

1. When feasible, the Parish Priest and the catechists are to interview the catechumens to ascertain their suitability to be elect for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation on Pentecost (31 May).
2. Then, once the catechetical sessions could be resumed, a simple Rite incorporating the Rite of Election and the scrutinies may be conducted according to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* during individual catechetical sessions presided by the Priest and the catechists at a chosen date. (This Rite may be omitted for the elderly, the sick and whoever finds this inconvenient on various grounds.)

(Our office will provide this Rite for parish use in due course.)

3. Our office will also provide the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for Pentecost in due course.
4. If we could celebrate the Holy Week liturgies this year, it will be duly accommodated and simplified in line with the need for combating the viral epidemic, wherever permissible by the rubrics:
 - a. On Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), 5 April, the faithful need not take any branches.
 - b. The arrangement for the Chrism Mass will be announced in due course.
 - c. In the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, 9 April, the Washing of Feet will be omitted.
 - d. In the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, 10 April, the Adoration of the Cross will take place without individual approaching the Cross.
 - e. In the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, 11 April, the faithful need not hold or light candles in hand; the Blessing of Water is to be omitted, while the Renunciation of Sin and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises prevail and the Eucharist follows.

(Our office will provide the liturgical texts of all these Rites for parish use in due course.)

5. Kindly circulate the above measures to the catechists and liturgical ministers and whoever concerned. Take note of any latest guidelines from the Diocese.

God bless.

With prayers,

Office, Diocesan Liturgy Commission