



天主教香港教區禮儀委員會

HONG KONG CATHOLIC DIOCESAN LITURGY COMMISSION

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**Guidelines for Holy Week under the Pandemic
for 2021 in the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong
(For private or public Mass)**

(cf. Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments,
Decrees, 19 and 25 March, and Letter, 1 October 2020)

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Parishes may buy some branches from nearby florists for blessing.
The faithful may feel free to take home some of these blessed
branches. This is a kind of popular piety for the Palm Sunday
recalling the Lord's solemn entrance into Jerusalem.

Entrance Rite and Blessing of Branches

Branches for the faithful are to be placed on a small table for
blessing.

The celebrant and the assisting ministers hold the branches in their
hands.

After the signing of the cross, the celebrant greets the faithful, gives a
brief address and bless the branches (see *Holy Week Liturgy –
Passion Sunday*). After the Gospel passages for Year B (Mark 11:1-
10 or John 12:12-16), an entrance song follows.

After the Collect, Mass as usual.

Holy Thursday – the Lord's Supper

The Liturgy of this evening is to follow the “*Holy Week Liturgy: Lord's
Supper*” of the Roman Missal.

Omit the Washing of Feet and the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

After the Post Communion Prayer, simply transfer the Blessed
Sacrament to the tabernacle or place it on the altar for adoration by the
faithful. At suitable time, the Blessed Sacrament is to be transferred to
the tabernacle or to another chapel.



Good Friday – Passion of the Lord

Fasting and abstinence is obligatory.

The Liturgy of today is to follow the “*Holy Week Liturgy: Passion of the Lord*” of the Roman Missal.

In the Solemn Intercessions, add the following:

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.

After the Showing of the Holy Cross, **abstain from approaching and kissing the Cross**. The celebrant may lead the congregation to venerate the cross by kneeling, pause for adoration, then the *Reproaches* or other suitable songs may be sung.

Holy Communion follows.

Easter Vigil

The Liturgy is to follow the “*Holy Week Liturgy: Easter Vigil*” of the Roman Missal.

1. Lucernarium

It is suggested to omit the blessing of fire.

After the greeting and brief instruction, the Celebrant lights the paschal candle, saying: *May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

It is also suggested to omit the Procession, even the chanting: *The Light of Christ*. Omit the lighting of candles for the faithful, the celebrant and the assisting ministers (since the wearing of masks forbids the blowing of candles). The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows immediately.

(Then turn on the lights)

2. The Liturgy of the Word

The Missal provides seven Old Testament readings. In view of pastoral circumstances, at least three readings, and in urgent circumstances, two readings are to be proclaimed from the Old Testament. In all cases, the reading of Exodus 14:15-15:1 ought to be read.

3. Sacraments of Christian Initiation

For the sake of hygiene, it is strongly suggested to bless **distilled water** for baptism and for sprinkling.

For the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is suggested to use cotton swab to apply Chrism; use separate cotton swab for each candidate.

If baptism is not to be administered, the celebrant is to bless the water. Then the congregation renew their baptismal promises. After that, the celebrant sprinkles the people with the blessed water.

4. Mass as usual.

