

TO: Parish Priests

Dear Reverend Father,

Under the pandemic, we have no public Holy Week Liturgies and the faithful may only prayerfully unite themselves to the online broadcast liturgies. Pastors are reminded that the popular piety of the Church may serve as a remedy to address the need of religiosity of the faithful.

For example:

Take home the blessed branches: The blessing of the palm or branches commemorates Jesus' messianic entry into Jerusalem. It is customary that the faithful keep the blessed branches at home as witness to faith in Christ and his Paschal Victory.

Take home the blessed water: The blessing of water at Easter recalls the grace of baptism. It is also customary that the faithful take home the holy water for intinction as they pray, for signing the Cross, and for sprinkling.

Therefore, parishes may bless some branches on Palm Sunday, and water on Easter Vigil so that the faithful may take home as they wish. Pastors may instruct the faithful on the proper meaning of blessed branches and holy water.

We attach the related rites (in Chinese only) for your perusal.

The blessing of branches may take place separately, or at the beginning of the private mass of Palm Sunday. The branches may be placed on a table or held. It is suggested to buy just a few branches from florists nearby.

The blessing of water may take place separately, or in the private Paschal Vigil. It is recommended to use bottled distilled water.

Kindly encourage the faithful to pray with their families during the Holy Week and Easter.

Diocesan Liturgy Commission