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26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Monsignor, Canon, Father  
Dear Rev. Deacon

## **The Celebration of the Rites of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum**

The Congregation for Divine Worship has issued the Decree, *In time of Covid-19 (II)*, which was published on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. I have attached a copy for your information.

Since the current restrictions will remain in place in Scotland at least until after Holy Week and Easter Sunday, in accordance with the above decree, here are instructions for the various rites and liturgies that you may celebrate without the presence of the people, avoiding concelebration and omitting the sign of peace.

1. **Palm Sunday.** The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated in parish churches using the third form given in the Roman Missal. Palms may be blessed at this Mass as usual but distributed at a later time when circumstances permit.
2. **Our Chrism Mass** is postponed until some point after the current crisis. You are asked to retain last year's oils until we can celebrate the Chrism Mass. Currently visits to the sick are not possible, but when the situation eases, you are reminded that, in case of necessity, you are able to bless oil yourself for the anointing of the sick.
3. **Holy Thursday.** The washing of feet, already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the Tabernacle. On this day, the faculty to celebrate Mass without the presence of the people is exceptionally granted to all priests.
4. **Good Friday.** In the Universal Prayer, Bishops are asked to arrange to have a special intention for those who find themselves in distress, the sick and the dead. A formula for this additional intercession is attached. The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the celebrant.
5. **The Easter Vigil** can be celebrated in parish churches. The liturgy will begin with the lighting of the Easter Candle. For the **Baptismal Liturgy**, only the **Renewal of Baptismal Promises** is to be maintained. Baptisms and Receptions into the Church are therefore postponed to a later date. I deeply regret the disappointment

## ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW

that many will experience, having prepared for a long time for this moment. I pray that they will experience the joy of initiation before too long.

I intend to conduct these liturgies in St Andrew's Cathedral and live-stream them at the following times:

Palm Sunday 12 noon.

Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday 6pm.

Good Friday 3pm.

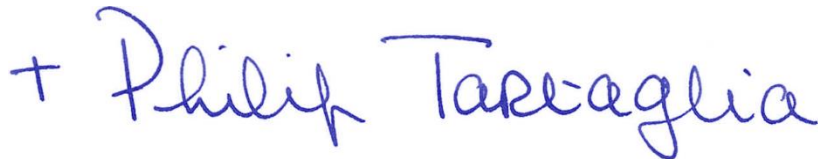
Easter Vigil 8.30pm.

Please inform your people of these times through whichever means you have at your disposal. While I understand that this might not be possible, please consider not streaming services at the same times from your own parishes,

I appreciate how strange it is to celebrate the liturgy without your people and I thank you for your perseverance. Those of you who are able to live-stream should know that the people greatly appreciate this service. Anything you are able to do in person at this time for your people is for them a consolation and a solace. Remember that when you celebrate the sacred liturgy Christ is present in his Church even in these difficult circumstances and you are there sacramentally in his Person

I wish you all a prayerful holy week, a Sacred Triduum and a joyful Easter. Look after yourself. Keep safe and well..

With my thanks and blessing,  
Yours devotedly in the Lord,



✠Philip Tartaglia  
Archbishop of Glasgow