



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

CHANCERY

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March 16, 2023

Protocol No. 2023-018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Peace and Hope of Jesus Christ be with you!

The journey throughout the last several years has been a difficult and challenging one, but you have continued to assist in following archdiocesan protocols set forth and for this I thank you. Your deep love for your Church has been the very foundation of our continued existence and fulfillment of God's promise.

On March 16, 2022, Archbishop Byrnes issued Prot. No. 2022-031 regarding the celebration of 2022 Holy Week Liturgies and Updating Mass Protocols. As the island has been lifted from the COVID-19 Pandemic Status, **I hereby also lift the Protocols set forth in this document as well as past COVID-19 Protocols and return our Liturgical celebrations to Pre-Pandemic practices effective immediately.** I remind you to continue to practice all needed sanitization measures to ensure that the health and safety of everyone is maintained.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate the sacred liturgies of Holy Week as we walk with Jesus on his road to Calvary. I remind everyone of the need to abide by our Church teaching and practices. On March 15, 2017, Archbishop Byrnes issued Prot. No. 2017-074 reiterating how the Celebration of the Eucharist is to be conducted with some exceptions and establishing specific norms for the Archdiocese of Agaña. I wish to highlight a section in this document:

- 1. As a sign of the unity of the Eucharist within the parish community and the essential openness to all, the Sunday Eucharist after First Vespers and all Solemnities of the small communities must be celebrated at a consecrated altar, either in the main sanctuary or in an approved chapel.*

Addressing several important matters on the Easter Triduum:

- **HOLY THURSDAY** – The apostles selected for the Washing of the Feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper must be members of the Community of the Faithful. These members should be representative of the young and old, healthy, and sick, clergy, religious, and laity. It is important that those who are chosen to receive an explanation of the meaning of the ceremony and their role as apostles.
- **GOOD FRIDAY** – A reminder that Good Friday indicates that only the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Penance are celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday (*Roman Missal*, rubrics for Good Friday [GF], no. 1.)

The previous rubric mentioned only that all depart in silence. The new rubric notes "after genuflecting to the Cross," all depart in silence (GF, no. 32).

It is then indicated that although the altar is stripped after the celebration, "the Cross remains on the altar with two or four candlesticks" (GF, no. 33).

- **HOLY SATURDAY / EASTER VIGIL** - I wish to highlight the rubrics for Holy Saturday in preparation of the celebration of the Easter Vigil (Missale Romanum – Rubrics for the Easter Vigil - EV, no2):

"The rubrics remind us that this 'mother of all vigils' is the 'greatest and most noble of all solemnities and it is to be unique in every sing Church'. On this holy night, the church keeps watch, celebrating the resurrection of Christ in the sacraments and awaiting his return in glory. It is the turning point of the Triduum, the Passover of the new covenant, which marks Christ's passage from death to life. Therefore, the Easter Vigil does not correspond to the usual Saturday evening Mass and its character is unique in the cycle of the liturgical year."

I take this opportunity to once again, ask for your continued prayer for our Archdiocese. Please continue to pray for our clergy, our island leaders, and all others; we pray for those who continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic in their lives; and pray for one another that we will remain steadfast in our faith in the days ahead.

May we never forget the love that Christ has for each of us. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, our actions, and our words, so that we may always bring that love to one another. May the Crucified Lord continue to give us the strength, peace and hope of His promise and may Santa Marian Kamalen continue to intercede for us for His grace and blessings.

I hereby lift all Pandemic Protocols of the Archdiocese of Agaña and return our Liturgical celebrations to Pre-Pandemic practices EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.


REV. FR. ROMEO CONVOCAR, VICAR GENERAL

03/16/23
DATE

On behalf of +Michael Jude Byrnes, Metropolitan Archbishop of Agaña