

HOLY WEEK 2021



In early February we asked Dioceses to let us know of your experience of Holy Week last year, but also to let us know what you yourselves have tried and consider worth sharing. Sixteen Dioceses replied before the deadline and now we are in a position to offer some results and, more importantly, some suggested guidelines and prayer services. In addition, many Dioceses have extensive material on their websites.

Three areas emerge from the responses:

- Holy Week, its liturgies and devotions in the parish church,
- moments of prayer in the home,
- visits to the church.

Holy Week – principal liturgies

We take note of guidelines issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship last year and reissued for this year:

- Celebration of Holy Week 2021 - Document 1 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie
- Decree in time of Covid-19 - Document 2 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie

These documents offer a simplification of the liturgies: a simple entrance rite on Palm Sunday, the omission of the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday, the kissing of the cross on Good Friday limited to the celebrant and the renewal of baptismal promises only at the baptismal liturgy of the Easter Vigil.

Again, this year our Holy Week liturgies will be celebrated behind closed doors. But liturgy in its simplest form, with the ministry of music given to a cantor, without concelebration, with ministers of the word as needed and streamed live, where available, can be a great source of comfort and offer a sense of solidarity for our parishioners.

Notice of the Holy Week liturgies at the Cathedral should be made known throughout the diocese. Many compliments have been given to the liturgies last year from Christ the King Cathedral, Mullingar, broadcast on RTÉ. This year, the Liturgy of Good Friday and the Easter Vigil will come from Knock Basilica.

Holy Week –other liturgies and devotions

Palm Sunday

- Many people appreciate very much being able to have some blessed palm on Palm Sunday.
- Great care should be taken so that, if made available, the palms are touched only by the recipient. Sanitisation should be readily available, especially as many people look for ‘a better’ sprig.
- Many have suggested, like last year, the placing of a Palm Wreath on the front door of the home.

Penitential Services

A parish is encouraged to arrange a penance service, scheduled and streamed to parishioners. It should be very clear that this is not a sacramental celebration but a celebration of God’s mercy as we journey to receive the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins.

Some examples of Penitential Services are given here –

- Service of Reconciliation – Document 3 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie
- Penitential Service – Document 4 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie
- Penitential Service 2020 – Document 5 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie

Stations of the Cross

- Stations of the Cross are encouraged online on Good Friday.
- See the attached for ideas:
 - Way of the Cross – Document 6 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie
 - Document 7 <https://www.kandle.ie/stationsofthecrosslent2021/>

Liturgy of the Hours

The celebration of the Hours during the Easter Triduum was mentioned in several responses. Here is a Morning Prayer for Good Friday and Holy Saturday and Night Prayer for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, taken from a resource that will be published later this year.

-Liturgy of the Hours – Document 8 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie

Moments of Prayer in the home

In the responses to our survey this is seen as an area of great importance.

Holy Week

- The resources encourage a dedicated prayer space and prayer time at home throughout the week for example:
 - Bringing Holy Week Home – Document 9 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie
 - Document 10 PDF - www.armaghprays.com/wednesday-holy-week

Holy Thursday - Prayer on the theme of Washing of the Feet

- To reflect on the washing of the feet from within the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday the following ritual might be used as a family prayer

- Washing of the Feet – Document 11 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie

Holy Thursday – A Vigil Reflection

- Reading segments from St John's Gospel, chapters 13-17 on Holy Thursday evening is recommended
- *Night Prayer* from the Liturgy of the Hours could conclude the evening of prayer

Good Friday

- *Morning Prayer* from the Liturgy of the Hours could begin the day
- A prayerful reading of the Passion of St John is suggested
- Encourage people to pray the Stations of the Cross – a short form is given here

See Document 6 on www.liturgy-ireland.ie

- Remind parishioners that the Stations of the Cross can be prayed outdoors while out walking
- Reflection before the Cross:
 - *A Good Friday Prayer* – Document 12 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie
- *Night Prayer* from the Liturgy of the Hours could conclude the day

Holy Saturday

- *Morning Prayer* from the Liturgy of the Hours could begin the day
- Light a candle in the home after sunset and participate in the Easter Vigil liturgies available online
- *Night Prayer* from the Liturgy of the Hours could conclude the day

Visits to the Church

- A ***sacred space*** in the Church during Holy Week is encouraged. The space could hold a symbol of Lent/ Palm/a lighted candle and could be near what will become the Easter Garden
- ***Stations of the Cross***: encourage praying the Stations of the Cross from a fixed place in the Church. Moving around the Church is strongly discouraged. Perhaps encouraging people to pray as they walk outdoor in a safe manner (like people do at the stations in Lough Derg) could be an alternative.
- ***Cross*** – a cross for veneration should be placed in a suitable position where it can be seen but not touched or kissed.

Easter Garden

- We encourage the continuing celebration of the Easter Season by establishing an outdoor Cross and an Easter Garden.

-Easter Garden – Document 13 PDF on www.liturgy-ireland.ie

