

Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto
Archbishop of Delhi



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- ❖ The Bishop has the faculty to postpone the **Chrism Mass** of the Holy Week to another date.
- ❖ **Palm Sunday:** The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; in parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used.
- ❖ **Holy Thursday:** All priests may offer Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper in a suitable place, without the public but the washing of the feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. The procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose at the end of the Mass is also to be omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is placed directly in the tabernacle of repose. On this day the faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests.
- ❖ **Good Friday:** The service of the Passion of the Lord may be celebrated in Cathedrals and parish churches. In the Universal Prayer No. X "For those in tribulation" a special intention should be added "for those who find themselves in distress, the sick and the dead on account of COVID-19 pandemic." The adoration of the Cross by kissing it should be limited solely to the Celebrant.
- ❖ **The Easter Vigil:** may only be offered in Cathedrals and parish churches, "where, and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible." The preparing and lighting of the fire during the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium is omitted. The Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted, and the Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*) follows. The Mass proceeds as usual; the blessing of the Baptismal Water is omitted but "the Renewal of the Baptismal Promises" is maintained.
- ❖ Seminaries, houses of clergy, monasteries and religious communities shall follow the afore mentioned instructions.
- ❖ Expressions of popular piety and processions which enrich the days of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum can be transferred to other suitable days in the year, for example 14 and 15 September, according to the judgment of the Diocesan Bishop.

In view of the above, the following has been decided in the Archdiocese of Delhi:

- The Annual Way of the Cross on Palm Sunday is called off.
- The Chrism Mass is postponed to a later date.
- The liturgical services of the Holy Week will take place in every parish without the physical presence of the congregation.