



Catholic Diocese of Ndola

Bishop's Office

MEMO

To: Vicars Forane
All Priests
Religious Men and Women and
All the Lay Faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Ndola

From: Bishop

Cc: Diocesan Senior Management
CEO – Radio Icengelo

Date: Tuesday, 5th April 2022

Subject: Guidelines on the Celebration Holy Week and Easter in the Diocese

Following the note issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on 25th March 2022 to Bishops and Episcopal Conferences on the celebration of Holy Week 2022, with worship and health safety in mind, I have noted some aspects to be followed in our Diocese.

Thus, I decree the following general measures on the named days in this period: It is worth mentioning that all the celebrations can be multiplied, meaning that more than one Mass can be celebrated on each particular celebration. Furthermore, other refining details of the celebrations will be left to the discretion of the individual priest and his parish team to determine what suits their situation.

1. Palm Sunday:

- a. This year, Palm Sunday will be celebrated on **10th April 2022**. As earlier indicated, Masses will be celebrated in Parishes which can be multiplied but only one **Procession** in the streets should be held per particular parish to accompany Palm Sunday. Thus, Parishes will cut the palms for the parishioners and the priest will bless the palms for the faithful to carry during the one procession each parish will hold. In the other Masses, palms should be distributed at an appropriate time without having to hold another procession. Parishes are hereby directed to conduct the procession on their own without combining with other parishes or Churches.
- b. The singing of the Passion of the Lord by various Singing Groups **may be done** on both Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Parish Priests are advised to choose competent people to read or sing the shorter version of the Passion of our Lord on the named days.





Catholic Diocese of Ndola

Bishop's Office

2. Mass for the Blessing of Holy Oils:

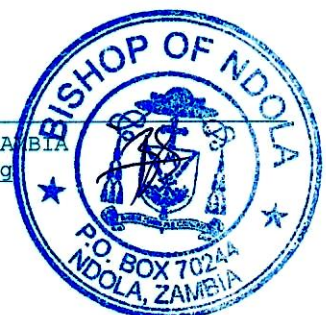
- a. This year's Mass to bless the Holy Oils to be used throughout the year will take place on **Thursday, 7th April 2022** at 10:00hrs in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Ndola.
- b. Those to attend this celebration are all the priests in the Diocese; the selected Choir to sing; a few representatives of the Religious and the Laity. The rest of the faithful are advised to follow the proceedings of the celebration on Radio, as Radio Icengelo staff will transmit the live broadcast of the same on both Radio and Facebook.

3. Celebration of Maundy (Holy) Thursday:

- a. This celebration will take place on **14th April 2022**. As per tradition, this solemnity has two specific important practices of which I give guidance as follows:
 - b. **Washing of the Feet:**
This practice will be done in parishes using **medicated water** that is mixed with either Dettol or any other recommended disinfectant. Instead of cotton towels, I suggest that priests use disposable paper towels which should be procured beforehand. As per tradition, I wish to reiterate that **only men** must be chosen for the washing of the feet just as our Lord Jesus Christ did to his apostles.
 - c. **Transfer and Adoration of the Eucharist:**
As per practice, parishes will have to prepare conducive places where the Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to. Concerning the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, I wish to leave it to the discretion of individual parish priests to determine what suits their environment and security situation of each area but this must **not exceed midnight**.

4. Celebration of Good Friday:

- a. The celebration falls on **15th April 2022**. As per tradition, the way of the cross can be conducted at an appropriate time before 15:00 Hrs. Also, the Passion of our Lord will be celebrated in parishes. As earlier pointed out under Palm Sunday, the **singing or reading** of the Passion of our Lord must be chosen from the shorter version of the Passion, as earlier guided.
- b. **Veneration of the Cross:**
At the time of the veneration of the Cross, all the faithful are asked just to bow before the Cross without touching or kissing it as they come in the procession. The veneration of the Cross by kissing shall be limited solely to the main celebrant. To lessen on time, parishes are encouraged to have more than one Cross for veneration in different locations of the Church building.





Catholic Diocese of Ndola

Bishop's Office

c. Special Prayer for the war in Ukraine:

As indicated in the said Note by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, we continue praying for Ukraine as admonished by the Holy Father. In recent days, the Holy Father has repeatedly invited us to pray, asking God for the gift of peace for Ukraine, so that this “repugnant war” may come to an end. Together with Ukraine, we would also like to recall and include in our prayer, all the other conflicts, which are unfortunately always numerous, in many countries of the world, a situation that Pope Francis has described as a *piecemeal third world war*. In the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, the liturgy invites us to raise our petitions to God for the Church and for the whole world. In the Solemn Intercessions we will invoke the Lord for those in public office (prayer IX) that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all, and for those in tribulation (prayer X) that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand. Let us now make these prayers our own for all our brothers and sisters who are experiencing the horror of war, particularly in Ukraine.

5. Holy Saturday /Easter Vigil and Easter:

- a. The celebration falls on **16th April 2022**.
- b. When it comes to the seven (7) Old Testament readings at Vigil Mass, I allow parishes to choose up to **four (4)** readings only instead of reading all the seven (7). Once again, Reading number one (1) from **Genesis 1: 1—2:4** and number three (3) from **Exodus 14:15-15:1** are a must read and should never be omitted.
- c. The administering of the three (3) Sacraments of Initiation at Easter can **be done** by those parishes who have candidates that are prepared and are ready to receive the said sacraments.

6. Resumption of Movements / Visitations and Retreats:

As earlier promised in my last communique and as we continue to see a steady improvement and a continued reduction in the number of new cases of Covid – 19, I wish to permit movements / visitations as well as retreats for various groupings within and beyond the Diocese to gradually begin after Easter Sunday. Groups wishing to do so must of course ensure that necessary permissions are sought and granted from relevant authorities.

I urge you to religiously follow the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI). These include the following:

- a. *Wearing your masks properly in public;*
- b. *Washing your hands thoroughly / sanitizing regularly;*
- c. *Avoiding unnecessary travel;*
- d. *Sharing information with others on Covid – 19 prevention; and*
- e. *Seeking Medical attention and Guidance in good time.*

Plot 440 Evelyn Crescent – P.O. Box 70244 – Ndola – ZAMBIA
Tel: +260 763417356 Website: www.ndoladiocese.org
Email: bishop@ndoladiocese.org
bsphiri@hotmail.com





Catholic Diocese of Ndola

Bishop's Office

Let us remain a faith community that takes responsibility for each other's well-being and united in prayer. Entrusting you all to the maternal intercession of our Lady and Mother, Mary, the Immaculately Conceived!

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Phiri, JCD
Bishop of Ndola

