



Holy Week 2025 Liturgical Protocol

The Rites for every liturgical celebration are highlighted by rubrics (highlighted in red print) which describe in detail what are to be observed, in terms of wording, physical postures and other details. As such, the Rites according to the Roman Catholic Church follow a certain flow which enables the congregation to be engaged in the celebration. For example, there are designated periods of pauses and silence. Where they are not indicated, pauses and delays are unnecessary and therefore to be avoided.

The Holy Week is the week that precedes the great feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It includes the last days of Lent and the beginning of the Easter Triduum. During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of His life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem.

Through his Paschal Mystery, the Lord Jesus redeemed the human race and gave perfect glory to the Father. By dying, Christ destroyed our death; by rising, he restored our life. For this reason, the Easter Triduum, when we celebrate the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord, is the high point of the Liturgical Year. The Easter Solemnity is to the year what Sunday is to the week. The celebration of the Easter Triduum opens with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its climax in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer II on Easter Sunday.

(The Chrism Mass on Holy Monday, April 14 at 7pm at St Mary's Cathedral is presided by the Bishop with the priests who renew their priestly promises. The Holy Oils are also blessed during this Mass.)

PALM SUNDAY (April 12, 5pm /April 13, 9am and 10:30am, Latin 7:15am, 12:30pm)

Palms are prepared for blessing in the Hall. Books of the Passion Narrative are ready. Roman Missal and Book of the Gospels in the hall. Extra Palms are blessed on Saturday evening for the 7:15am Latin Mass on Sunday Morning.

10 minutes prior to the bells the second reader reads the Commentary to invite everyone to gather in the hall. No music before the Celebrant begins. For the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, the Procession is used. The Celebrant begins in the Hall with the Introductory Rites, the Gospel Reading and a brief homily. During the entrance hymn the congregation process outside of the Parish Hall lead by the choir to the main doors of the Church waving their palms, followed by the servers and priest.

Mass continues with the Collect Prayer, followed by the First Reading (First Reader), the Responsorial Psalm (Cantor) and the Second Reading (Second Reader).

Before the **Reading of the Lord's Passion**, when the Gospel Acclamation is chanted by the cantor, the Deacon proceeds to the Ambo and the priest to the lectern. The Celebrant proceeds to the Altar. Organ playing or chanting is done at the two (pauses) intermissions during the Passion reading, and all kneel facing the cross as noted in the Passion Narrative. The Passion Narrative concludes in silence.

Homily follows. Mass continues as usual. Deacon serves the choir and the handicapped, priests serve the congregation.

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (April 17, 6:00pm, Latin Mass 8:30pm)

Holy Oils are ready for Procession. 2 Humeral Veils are set out in the credence table. Incense Boat is ready in the sanctuary. Chairs (12) for Washing of the Feet stacked on either side of the centre aisle, bowls and towels ready on a table at the back of the pews.

After the bells the second reader reads the Commentary.

The Cantor sings the Introduction of the Holy Oils, introducing each oil as the carriers, process to the table in the Sanctuary. The Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and Sacred Chrism are carried by a Pastoral Care representative, representative from the Sacramental Preparation class and a Youth, respectively. Celebrant receives the oils and places them in the cabinet next to the Celebrant's chair.

After the Procession of the Holy Oils, the Entrance Hymn and procession begin the Mass which proceeds as usual.

After the Homily, chairs are set up along the centre aisle and those who will have their feet washed move to the chairs. When the washing of the feet has been completed the ushers and altar servers remove the chairs from the aisle and stack them at the back of the pews.

After the Washing of the of the Feet, the Celebrant leads the **Prayers of the Faithful**. The Mass continues as usual. The Deacon will serve the choir and the handicapped and the priests will serve the congregation.

After the Prayer after Communion, the candles at the **Altar of Repose** (in the Hall) are lighted by an Altar Server. Everyone is invited to kneel down. The two priests put on their Humeral Veils and the celebrant incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The Deacon carries the ombrellino and the Celebrant and priest carry the Ciboria with the consecrated species down the main aisle to the Altar of Repose in the Hall. The Altar Servers follow with the incense boat and candles. At the place of repose, the Celebrant incenses the Blessed Sacrament, **while the Soloist sings Tantum Ergo**. After the silent recessional, silent adoration continues until midnight.

After the recession, the Altar is stripped and candles removed by the Altar Servers, and the votive candles are covered by the Sacristan.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION (April 18, 3pm, Latin 6pm)

Books of the Passion Narrative are ready. Kneelers are available.

Altar servers take their positions in the Sanctuary. A Prelude (e.g. *Miserere Mei*) is chanted just before the service.

The Celebrant processes to the Sanctuary in silence. Then he prostrates himself in the middle of the Sanctuary. All kneel. After two (2) minutes of silence, the Celebrant goes to the Celebrant's Chair and leads the Collect. Lector 1 reads the First Reading. Lector 2 reads the Second Reading.

Before the **Reading of the Lord's Passion** when the Gospel Acclamation is chanted, the Deacon proceeds to the Ambo and the priest to the lectern. The Celebrant stands at the Altar. Organ playing or chanting is done at the two (pauses) intermissions during the Passion reading, and all kneel as noted in the Passion Narrative. The Passion Narrative concludes in silence with all readers returning to their seats.

After the reading of the Passion, the homily is delivered, followed by the **General Intercessions** with each of the ten (10) petitions being chanted by a Cantor. All kneel after each petition. Then all stand as the Celebrant leads the prayer for each of the petitions.

After the General Intercessions, the **Veneration of the Cross** follows. The First Form of the showing of the Holy Cross is used. The Celebrant and two Altar Servers go sacristy while Altar Servers place the kneelers and stand for the cross in the centre aisle. The Altar Servers with the candles lead the Celebrant carrying the cross from the sacristy. The Celebrant proceeds with the unveiling of the cross in the Sanctuary in three parts, chanting, "*Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the Salvation of the world.*" To which the congregation responds "*Come, let us adore.*"

After the Celebrant and Altar Servers Venerate the Cross in the Sanctuary, the Celebrant brings the cross from the Sanctuary and place it in the stand for public veneration. The altar servers place two candles beside the cross and place kneelers beside where the Cross will be positioned. The Celebrant invites the congregation to come forward and venerate the Cross. The soloist sings the Reproaches and the antiphon.

After the Veneration, the Cross and candles are moved to the side next to the Celebrant chair by two Altar Servers, and the kneelers are removed. The third Altar Server places an altar cloth and the corporal on the Altar. The Celebrant brings in and places the Blessed Sacrament on the altar. The Celebrant leads the congregation in praying the Lord's Prayer. With the help of the Deacon (choir and handicapped), he and the other priest distributes Holy Communion to all the faithful.

After Communion, the Priest deposits the Ciboria in the designated place in the sacristy. The Altar is stripped by the Altar Server. After the Prayer after Communion and Dismissal, the Celebrant and Altar Servers genuflect before the holy cross process out in silence.

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE (April 19, 8pm, Latin 11:30pm)

Candle racks stocked with fresh candles and covered prior to the celebration. Set out worm lights for Celebrant and Lectors, taper candles for the congregation, the Sanctuary and Narthex are readied for the Paschal candle, the baptism font is placed next to the Paschal candle stand and filled with water. The Fire prepared outside the main church doors. Wireless headset mic in the sacristy.

At 8PM, Lector 2 reads the Commentary. Sacristan turns off the lights. The Blessing of the Fire followed by the Blessing and Lighting of the Paschal Candle takes place outside the Front Doors. The Celebrant lights the Paschal Candle from the new fire. Altar Servers will lead the procession with the incense boat.

The Procession begins with the **Deacon** saying, "The Light of Christ!" to which the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God!" Then the Celebrant enters the main church and stops at the three-quarter mark of the church and says the second time "The Light of Christ!" to which the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God!". At this point (and not before), the **Deacon** shares the new Easter fire with the Altar Servers, who then share it with the congregation. Then, the **Deacon** proceeds to the Sanctuary and faces the congregation and says the third time "The Light of Christ!" to which the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God!". The Celebrant incenses the Paschal Candle.

The Celebrant goes to the Celebrant's Chair. The Celebrant blesses the Deacon. **The Easter Proclamation** is sung by the Deacon. After the Exsultet, the Celebrant announces that the candles in the congregation are all put aside.

The readings follow. Readers use worm lights to read from the Lectionary. Each reading is followed by a cantored psalm, period of sacred silence (30 seconds) and Collect by the Celebrant. After the last reading from the Old Testament with its Collect, the Altar Server lights the Altar candles. The Choir leads the Gloria. The bells are rung by the Altar Servers. All lights in the church are turned on by the Sacristan.

After the Collect Prayer, the Epistle is read, followed by the Solemn Alleluia (Gospel Acclamation) by the Deacon. The Deacon reads the Gospel. The Homily follows the Gospel.

The Baptismal Liturgy begins with the recitation of the Litany of the Saints and blessing of the Baptismal Water.

Catechumen and godparents assemble at the Baptism font. After the Baptism, candidates and godparents/sponsors assemble at the front and two Altar Servers share the light from the Paschal Candle with the congregation for the Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith, after which the Celebrant sprinkles the people with the blessed water. Then is the reception into full communion and confirmation.

The **Prayers of the Faithful** are read by the Deacon.

The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** continues as usual. The Deacon serves the choir and the handicapped and the priests serve the congregation.

After the **final blessing**, the dismissal with the double alleluia is sung by the Deacon.