



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes
All Clergy
All Institutes of Consecrated Life +RG

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon

Date: April 8, 2020

Re.: Holy Week & Easter

As we prepare for a most unusual celebration of the Triduum and Easter, I would like to bring a number of items to your attention:

1. The Holy See has issued a special intention, related to COVID-19, to be added to the Good Friday Prayers. (cf. attached). This intention is to be inserted between the Solemn Intercession IX and X given in the Missal. I would ask that priests who are celebrating the Triduum privately pray this intercession as indicated.
2. Parishes are asked to encourage their parishioners to place a lighted candle in their windows on Holy Saturday night. This is meant to be a sign of the Light of Christ which dispels all darkness and a gesture of our solidarity on this Holy Night.
3. Parishes whose churches have bells are asked to ring their bells for five minutes beginning at noon on Easter Sunday. This is meant to be an expression of our Easter Joy.
4. I would encourage you to invite your parishioners to pray the nine-day Divine Mercy Novena leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, 2020. The novena would begin on Good Friday, April 10th. The intention of this Divine Mercy Novena will be for an end to the coronavirus health crisis in Canada and throughout the world. We include in our prayers the intentions of all health care workers and those who are struggling with the virus and those who have died. (you can find the Divine Mercy Chaplet on our Archdiocesan website: www.archwinnipeg.ca.)
5. Priests are reminded that, because the Mass of Chrism has been postponed, if necessary, they may bless the Oil of the Sick. It is necessary to use olive oil and to pray the blessing.

These are very difficult days for our parishioners and for us. Let us continue to pray for one another.

I wish you a holy Triduum and all the blessings of the Risen Lord!