



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

1495 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6 • Tel: 204-452-2227 • Fax: 204-475-4409 • Web: [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes  
All Clergy  
All Institutes of Consecrated Life

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon *+ R. G.*

Date: February 26, 2021

Re: Further Options for Receiving Holy Communion and  
Clarification on the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

### A. Introduction

The following are possible options that could be considered in light of present protocols in Manitoba for our liturgical celebrations.

#### **Additional Masses**

Pastors and Parochial Administrators might give consideration to scheduling additional Sunday Masses where possible. This would give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in the Celebration of Mass and receive Holy Communion.

#### **Participating in Outdoor Gatherings While Remaining in a Vehicle**

It is possible for Mass to be celebrated inside the church, in compliance with protocols, while other parishioners participate in the Liturgy while remaining in their vehicles. This is facilitated through live-stream, or in some cases, through FM transmitters which are a relatively inexpensive means of transmitting audio over short distances. Holy Communion is then distributed to those in each vehicle by the priest, deacon, or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. These ministers are required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands prior to the distribution of the Eucharist.

To participate in a celebration while outdoors, all persons must stay in their motor vehicle at all times. In addition, persons may not leave their vehicle to interact with any person not in their vehicle while on site. Lastly, only those belonging to the same household are allowed to be in a given vehicle.

## **Receiving Holy Communion After Participating in a Live-stream of Mass**

Another possibility is for parishioners to participate in the Liturgy through live-stream, and then receive Holy Communion at the church following the live-stream, under the direction of the Pastor/Parochial Administrator.

### **B. “Last Rites” and Viaticum**

There appears to be some confusion around the concept of “Last Rites” at some Health Care Institutions. The confusion stems from an inaccurate reading of last year’s decree on the granting of indulgences (cf. attached).

As we are well aware, only priests can validly celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with individuals; oftentimes, near death, this includes Viaticum and the Apostolic Pardon.

The indulgence granted by the Holy See, for this time of pandemic, is for those persons who are quarantined in hospitals, institutions or at home who do not have access to a priest for the Sacrament of the Sick. While a member of Spiritual Care may be able to bring the person the Eucharist, s/he cannot celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick.

An indulgence is always a gift of the Church and is not dependent on the Minister. The indulgence comes from a series of conditions being met. In this situation, the act of receiving Viaticum, with the proper prayers and disposition, includes the Plenary Indulgence. The usual prayers include: prayers for the Holy Father, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. It is dependent on the individual’s overall awareness, desire and disposition to receive the indulgence.

### **C. EngageMB Survey**

The Provincial Government is once again asking Manitobans to consider taking the “Safely Restoring Services and Activities in Manitoba” survey through the EngageMB website ([https://engagemb.ca/restartmb-pandemic-response-system/survey\\_tools/survey-25feb21](https://engagemb.ca/restartmb-pandemic-response-system/survey_tools/survey-25feb21)). The survey is open until Tuesday, March 2, at 9:00 a.m., and may also be accessed through our Archdiocesan website.