2nd of April 2020

My Dear and Good People,

In light of further restrictions by the Government of Bermuda in response to COVID-19 and according to the Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, I promulgate the following regarding the liturgies of Palm Sunday and Holy Week in the Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda to assist the clergy and the faithful in the spiritual celebration of the Paschal festivities.

CHURCHES
Our churches will remain closed from Saturday, the 4th of April 2020, until further notice.

PALM SUNDAY
On Sunday there are to be no public gatherings inside or outside our churches.

The Mass for Palm Sunday will be celebrated by the Bishop without a congregation on Sunday, the 5th of April 2020 with blessed palms, and will be live-streamed on the Diocesan Facebook page at 10:00am.

Each priest should privately celebrate the Mass for Palm Sunday for the intentions of the people of his parish but without a congregation. Blessed palms will be made available for distribution at a later date. They are not to be distributed under any circumstances at this time.

CHRISM MASS
The Chrism Mass will be postponed and re-scheduled for another date/time with the renewal of priestly commitments and the blessing/consecration of oils occurring at that time. Oils/chrism from the current supplies (currently in use) may continue to be used until a new supply is blessed/consecrated and made available.
HOLY THURSDAY
There are to be no public gatherings inside or outside our churches.

The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated by the Bishop without a congregation on Thursday, the 9th of April 2020 and will be live-streamed on the Diocesan Facebook page at 8:00pm.

In parish churches, the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper may be celebrated without a congregation.

The Blessed Sacrament should be kept in the tabernacle, as usual.

Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day from the Liturgy of the Hours or recite the Rosary instead.

GOOD FRIDAY
There are to be no public gatherings inside or outside our churches.

The Stations of the Cross will be celebrated by the Bishop without a congregation on Friday, the 10th of April 2020 and will be live-streamed on the Diocesan Facebook page at 11:00am.

The Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion will be celebrated by the Bishop without a congregation and will be live-streamed on the Diocesan Facebook page at 3:00pm.

In parish churches, the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion may be celebrated without a congregation.

A special commemoration in the General Intercessions for the sick, the dead and for those who feel lost or dismayed will be sent to each parish for mandated use.

Priests who are unable to celebrate this liturgy should instead pray Vespers of the day from the Liturgy of the Hours or recite the Rosary instead.

HOLY SATURDAY
There are to be no public gatherings inside or outside our churches.

The Easter Vigil will be celebrated by the Bishop without a congregation on Saturday, the 11th of April 2020 and will be live-streamed on the Diocesan Facebook page at 8:00pm.

In parish churches, the Easter Vigil may be celebrated without a congregation.
During the Easter Vigil:
1. The preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted;
2. The paschal candle is lit without procession followed by the recited Easter Proclamation;
3. The Liturgy of the Word takes place;
4. The Baptismal Liturgy is only the renewal of Baptismal Promises; a symbolic (small) amount of Holy Water may be blessed but holy water fonts are to remain empty.

Priests who are unable to celebrate the Easter Vigil should instead pray Vespers/Matins/Lauds of the day from the Liturgy of the Hours or recite the Rosary instead.

EASTER SUNDAY
There are to be no public gatherings inside or outside our churches.

Mass for Easter Sunday will be celebrated by the Bishop without a congregation on Sunday, the 12th of April 2020 and will be live-streamed on the Diocesan Facebook page at 10:00am.

Each priest should privately celebrate the Mass for Easter Sunday for the intentions of the people of his parish but without a congregation.

REMINDER
Pastors are reminded that it is not within their discretion to invite parishioners to join them for live-streamed prayers, processions, Stations of the Cross or Masses. Given the Government’s mandate, the limitations imposed by this decree must be adhered to.

These are challenging and unusual times and they require unusual and unprecedented decisions. Let us work together for the care and safety of our community.

Thank you for your attention to these directives.

Prayerfully

[Signature]

Bishop Wes Spiewak, C.R.