



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Memo to: Priests and Deacons  
Hamilton Diocese

From: Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, PH, VG  
Chancellor *mgk*

Date: 13 January 2021

Re: Cancellations & Clarifications Resulting from COVID-19 Shutdown

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In view of the announcement by Premier Ford yesterday (January 12, 2021) and the Stay at Home Order until at least February 11, 2021, please note the following:

1. **The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Wayne Lobsinger**, which was scheduled for February 2, 2021 is postponed to June 29, 2021.
2. **The Lenten Days of Prayer for Priests**, scheduled for February 23 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton, and February 24, 2021 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Waterloo, have been cancelled.
3. **The Rite of Election**, scheduled for February 21, 2021 (Cathedral and Basilica of Our Lady, Guelph) are cancelled.
4. **Ash Wednesday** – If we are able to gather, ashes may be distributed according to the directives from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (attached).
5. **Confirmations** scheduled for January, February and March 2021 are cancelled and arrangements will need to be made for celebrations at a later date when it is possible to gather in the church for these liturgies.
6. **Baptisms** (except in emergency) should be delayed until after the churches are opened for at least 30% capacity.
7. **Funerals and previously scheduled Weddings** may take place in the church with a maximum of ten persons (including the priest) while observing all the current government and public health protocols. It is preferable to celebrated weddings outside Mass. Graveside services for funeral are preferable to Funeral Masses in the church.

## **The Imposition of Ashes During the Pandemic**

The health situation caused by Covid-19 continues to force changes on daily life, which are also reflected in the Church's sphere.

Ahead of the beginning of Lent, on Wednesday, 17 February, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has published a note detailing how Catholic priests are to distribute ashes.

Prot. N. 17/21

### **NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

#### **Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic**

The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments,  
12 January 2021.

Robert Card. Sarah  
Prefect

Arthur Roche  
Archbishop Secretary