



Clarifications on liturgical advice, in response to questions from priests

Funerals. The rule on cessation of public acts of worship applies even to funerals which are already booked to take place from this weekend onwards. In this case a conversation will be needed with the funeral director and the family. Explain that this directive has come from Archbishop's House, and that the funeral will have to be carried out either at the crematorium or the graveside, according to the rules of the crematorium/cemetery. Nonetheless, it is important that numbers even at the crematorium/graveside are kept to a minimum, and should involve the participation of family only. Offer to celebrate a Mass in private, and so without the family, for the deceased, but also offer to celebrate a public Mass/service for the deceased when restrictions are lifted. I know this could cause some upset and disruption but, unfortunately, it is important that we are faithful to the directive which was issued yesterday. We will aim to keep funeral directors informed. If you are experiencing new flu/cold-like symptoms you should not carry out any funerals, at the crematorium or the graveside.

Communion to the sick. Communion should only be given to the sick in danger of death.

Mass and Eucharistic Services in care homes. I would ask that Mass and Eucharistic Services do not take place in care homes until restrictions are lifted.

Religious brothers/sisters. Private Masses are to be celebrated without the physical presence of the faithful. This means that deacons, the lay faithful, and consecrated religious are not to be present.

Archbishop Malcolm
19 March 2020