

**COMMUNIQUÉ no. 33– March 18, 2021  
INFORMATION  
To pastors, teams and religious communities**

Brothers and sisters, here we are at the threshold of Holy Week, and Resurrection is in the air in our families and neighbourhoods and throughout society, promising better days to come. Here are some items of information, instructions and suggestions for the coming days and the Easter celebrations:

**1. A maximum of 25 participants in places of worship in the red zone from March 26**

- A. Developments in the epidemiological situation in Quebec are still favourable, and it will soon be possible to loosen the restrictions in place. Places of worship in the red zone will thus be able to hold celebrations with a maximum of 25 participants (all ages except for those leading the celebrations) as of March 26.
- B. You can still make your voices heard and invite your parishioners to do the same, requesting that the limit of participants at a celebration in places of worship be increased by contacting your MNA: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/deputes/index.html>
- C. It must be remembered that it is now compulsory to wear a procedure mask, and that a distance of two metres (instead of one and a half metres) must be maintained at all times between people who do not live at the same address.

Concerning procedure masks, each parish or chapel is requested:

- To obtain suitable masks as soon as possible and plan to distribute them to the faithful. A contribution towards the purchase costs may be suggested to participants.
- Not to refuse admittance to any person who comes without a procedure mask, but invite them to get one for the next time.

**2. Vaccination**

Please share among your networks Archbishop Christian Lépine's statement in favour of vaccination: <http://bit.ly/StatementVaccin>

**3. Baptisms, First Reconciliations, First Communions, confirmations and weddings**

- A. Celebrations of Christian initiation may now take place with the limit of 25 (excluding those leading the celebration and volunteers), provided that no gathering is held before or after the celebration.
- B. When scheduling weddings during the coming months, caution must be exercised in accepting applications and reservations. For the time being, the celebration of weddings is still not permitted in the red zone. Please note, however, that many marriage preparation sessions are still being held online. To find out where these are offered and for further information, please consult the brochure prepared by the Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family: <https://tinyurl.com/3cjjk59w>

**4. Holy Week Celebrations 2021**

In view of the health standards still in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic, here are some guidelines for Holy Week celebrations in 2021:

**Youth and Holy Week:** WYD Montreal or Diocesan World Youth Day has long been an important annual event for many of us. As of 2021, Pope Francis has moved the celebration of World Youth Day from Palm Sunday to the Feast of Christ the King. Accordingly, the next WYD Montreal will take place in November 2021. To facilitate this transition, the diocesan Youth Ministry Service is proposing an activity around Palm Sunday in order to support communities as they approach Holy Week. A Living Hope virtual mini-retreat is being offered on Saturday, March 27 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for teenagers (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-35). The purpose of this retreat is to encourage young people to rediscover Holy Week and to make a spiritual pilgrimage in the Way of the Cross. For more information, click here:

- <https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/missionjeunesse-mtl/en/2021/03/09/whats-happening-with-diocesan-world-youth-day/>
- <https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/missionjeunesse-mtl/en/our-living-hope/>

**a) Palm Sunday:**

- Where possible, Mass will be celebrated with a maximum of 25 participants (excluding those leading the celebrations and volunteers).
- The liturgical celebration must take place inside the place of worship. The **second form provided for in the Roman Missal** may be used: at the entrance to the church (with participants remaining in their seats) the priest begins with the reading of the gospel account and the blessing of the palm leaves.
- The blessing of the palm leaves takes place at the beginning of the celebration at the back of the church or in the entrance vestibule. There will be no distribution or procession; only the celebrant and liturgical servers will approach the sanctuary with palm leaves in hand.
- As they leave the church, the 25 participants will be able to take a palm leaf that has been blessed.
- For all others, plan time slots to come and collect the palm leaves. It is possible to plan a moment of prayer with them in the church.

**b) Chrism Mass:**

The Archbishop will preside over the celebration of the Chrism Mass at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral with a limited number of ordained priests and lay faithful on **Wednesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m.** (please note the time change), which will be broadcast live via the Youtube channel.

- The Office for Pastoral Personnel invites bishops and priests, deacons and their spouses to a **special virtual reception on Wednesday, March 31 at 5:00 p.m.**, when they will renew their episcopal, priestly and diaconal vows. Registration is required by March 21, 2021. <https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/support/en/fraternal-aperitif-chrism-mass/>
- For those who will not be able to attend the virtual reception, here is the text (only in French) of the [renewal](#) of vows.
- The Holy Chrism will be consecrated and the other two holy oils will be blessed. The three oils can be distributed as of Monday, April 5, by appointment with the Cathedral team and on presentation of a duly completed [authorization](#). In order to coordinate this, please contact the receptionist at (514) 866-1661.

**c) Holy Thursday:**

The Mass in commemoration of the Lord's Supper may be celebrated from 6:00 p.m. with 25 participants attending, omitting both the washing of the feet and the final procession with the Blessed Sacrament.

**d) Good Friday:**

- **The Office of the Passion may take place** (maximum of 25 participants, excluding those leading the celebration and volunteers). Only the presiding priest performs the veneration of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross may be held inside the church in such a way that the congregation does not have to move around.
- **The Good Friday Walk is not recommended.** Pastoral teams wishing to hold this activity are asked to contact their local police station and ask participants to wear masks and to maintain a distance of two metres.
- **The collection for the Holy Land** has been postponed until Sunday, September 12, 2021. However, it is possible to contribute now by making an online donation at: <https://commissariat.ca/2021-holy-land-collection-suggested-delay>. Please let people know about this way of responding to our annual appeal known.
- The Good Friday **traditional Blood Drive** will be held on April 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, 1110 Mansfield Street, Montreal. Héma-Québec's team members and the organizers hope to get 50 donors. An appointment is required before coming to the clinic and can be made either by calling 1 (800) 343-7264 or by sending an email to [jedonne@hema-quebec.qc.ca](mailto:jedonne@hema-quebec.qc.ca)

**e) Holy Saturday:**

Easter Vigil may be celebrated starting at 6:00 p.m., thus allowing the faithful time to return home before the curfew at 9:30 p.m. Priority should be given to catechumens and the newly confirmed.

- Catechumens who wish to do so and who are adequately prepared may receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist on the holy night of Easter, in accordance with the General Decree of February 15, 2021, concerning extraordinary faculties with respect to Baptism, Confirmation and the Profession of Faith for children and adults <http://bit.ly/DecreeConfirmation>
- The anointing of catechumens with oil may be performed on Holy Saturday or alternatively celebrated during the Easter Vigil (RCIA no. 200)

**f) Easter morning:**

- Pastors and those in charge of chapels are invited to ring the bells of their places of worship **at 12:00 noon for five minutes.**
- Easter Sunday celebrations may be held with 25 persons in attendance, with least possible moving about in the congregation (e.g. sprinkling holy water to bless the faithful).

**5. Miscellaneous announcements**

**A. Diocesan microsite**

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new microsite involving the collaboration of several diocesan offices and services. As of March 22, the site will feature resources for observing Holy Week and Easter grouped according to age (Adults, Young Adults, Teens, Families and Children) and presented in four different sections (Looking, Praying, Listening and Acting) for a total of 12 to 20 resources per age group. The link will be available to you shortly. Meanwhile, stay tuned to <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/lent-season> , where the announcement of the microsite will appear as of March 22.

- B. The Share Lent campaign** for Development and Peace based on the theme Share the Love culminates on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, March 21, with a collection that we do not expect to postpone. This year's campaign material is available online and can easily be conveyed by internet or printed:  
<https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove> .
- C. Taking action to fight the climate change crisis is a matter of social justice!**  
In this year's *Laudato Si'*, the Church supports the call to action in response to the climate crisis. This March 19, activities are being held across Quebec (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1016665202191484>), and throughout the world in association with *Fridays for future*, a youth-led movement. For more information or to see what can be done For more information and to find out what can be done in real terms in your own neighbourhood, please contact the Ministry of Social Action Office: [social@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:social@diocesemontreal.org)
- D.** I would like to conclude by thanking my collaborator Mrs. Annie Bréchet, who has been instrumental in the production of all these communiqués sent to you on my behalf throughout the past year. Annie will be leaving us very soon to carry out an important service within the Movement to which she belongs. We wish Annie a fruitful ministry and assure her of our fraternal prayers.

May your ascent towards Easter be blessed!

In Jesus the Saviour and Risen One,



+ Alain Faubert, VG  
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal