

DIRECTIVE FROM THE DIOCESAN OFFICE RE: COVID-19

1. In line with national and governmental efforts to stem the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the public celebration of Sunday and weekday Masses in the diocese of Achonry is suspended from 13.00 hrs on Saturday, March 14th until and including Sunday, March 29th when the situation will be reviewed. It is very important that this is strictly adhered to.
2. The obligation to be physically present at Mass on Sunday or Holy Day is, therefore, suspended for all until further notice.
3. Priests will continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis. However, it will be done privately, without a congregation present, and at a time other than the regular Mass time.
4. Parishioners are encouraged to tune in to broadcast Masses where available on radio, TV and online.
5. Previously scheduled Masses for specific intentions will be offered privately by the priest on the appropriate day (although not at the originally scheduled time). These Masses also will be without a congregation. Family members can, if they so wish, reschedule the Mass intention for a later date when public Masses can be celebrated again without the risk of transmitting the virus.
6. The Church will be open during the day for people to pray.
7. Funeral Masses can still be celebrated with congregations of less than 100 people. A designated member of the bereaved family should liaise with the family to ensure this is strictly enforced.
8. Marriages can still be celebrated with congregations of less than 100 people. A designated member of the family should liaise with family and friends to ensure this is strictly enforced.
9. Baptisms may still be celebrated with a congregation of less than 100 people.
10. The Anointing of the Sick can continue to be celebrated – but without direct physical contact.

This is an occasion for all of us to pray more intensely for each other and, especially, for those who have succumbed to the illness. We should pray, also, for those at the frontlines – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers – that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

