

Prot. N. 156/20

**DECREE**  
**on the Mass in Time of Pandemic**

*The plague that prowls in the darkness you will not fear* (cf. Ps 90, 5-6). These words of the psalmist are an invitation to have great faith in the steadfast love of God who never abandons his people in time of trial.

In these days, during which the whole world has been gravely stricken by the Covid-19 virus, many requests have come to this Dicastery to be able to celebrate a specific Mass to implore God to bring an end to this pandemic.

Therefore this Congregation, in virtue of the faculties granted to it by the Supreme Pontiff FRANCIS, gives permission to celebrate the Mass in Time of Pandemic, on any day except Solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, days within the Octave of Easter, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week (cf. *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, n. 374), for the duration of the pandemic.

The text of the Mass formulary is attached to this Decree.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 30 March 2020.

Robert Card. Sarah  
*Prefect*

✠ Arthur Roche  
*Archbishop Secretary*

**IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**

This Mass can be celebrated, according to the rubrics given for Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, on any day except Solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, days within the Octave of Easter, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week.

**Entrance Antiphon**

Is 53:4

Truly the Lord has borne our infirmities,  
and he has carried our sorrows.

**Collect**

Almighty and eternal God,  
our refuge in every danger,  
to whom we turn in our distress;  
in faith we pray  
look with compassion on the afflicted,  
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,  
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,  
strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders  
and the courage to reach out to all in love,  
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer  
in this time of peril.  
May they become for us, by your power,  
a source of healing and peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon**

Mt 11:28

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened,  
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

O God, from whose hand we have received  
the medicine of eternal life,  
grant that through this sacrament  
we may glory in the fullness of heavenly healing.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer over the People

O God, protector of all who hope in you,  
bless your people, keep them safe,  
defend them, prepare them,  
that, free from sin and safe from the enemy,  
they may persevere always in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**MASS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**  
**Readings from the *Lectionary for Mass***

Any readings from the Mass “In Any Need” (*Lectionary for Mass*, vol. IV, nos. 938-942) may be used, or:

First Option

**FIRST READING**

*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace,  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
I tell myself my future is lost,  
all that I hoped for from the LORD.  
The thought of my homeless poverty  
is wormwood and gall;  
Remembering it over and over  
leaves my soul downcast within me.  
But I will call this to mind,  
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,  
his mercies are not spent;  
They are renewed each morning,  
so great is his faithfulness.  
My portion is the LORD, says my soul;  
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the LORD to one who waits for him,  
to the soul that seeks him;  
It is good to hope in silence  
for the saving help of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 5-7

**R. (4b)** Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken.  
From your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse your power. **R.**

O LORD of hosts, how long will you burn with anger  
while your people pray?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in ample measure.  
You have left us to be fought over by our neighbors,  
and our enemies mock us. **R.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE  
AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

2 Corinthians 1:3b-4a

**[R. Alleluia, alleluia.]**

Blessed be the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement,  
who encourages us in our every affliction.

**[R. Alleluia, alleluia.]**

## GOSPEL

*Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

4:35-41

One day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:

“Let us cross to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.

And other boats were with him.

A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat,  
so that it was already filling up.

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.

They woke Jesus and said to him,

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up,

rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!”

The wind ceased and there was great calm.

Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified?

Do you not yet have faith?”

They were filled with great awe and said to one another,

“Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Second Option

**FIRST READING**

*Neither death nor life will be able to separate us from the love of God.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:31b-39

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

As it is written:

*For your sake we are being slain all the day;*

*we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.*

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 123:1-2ab, 2cdef

**R.** (3a) Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

**Or:**

**R.** (2ef) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you I lift up my eyes  
who are enthroned in heaven.  
Behold, as the eyes of servants  
are on the hands of their masters. **R.**

As the eyes of a maid  
are on the hands of her mistress,  
So are our eyes on the LORD, our God,  
till he have pity on us. **R.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE  
AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

2 Corinthians 1:3b-4a

**[R.** Alleluia, alleluia.]

Blessed be the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement,  
who encourages us in our every affliction.

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