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Decrees on Holy Week and Easter Liturgies in the Time of Coronavirus

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments

While conferences and meetings can be postponed for months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter cannot, with the exception of the chrisem Mass, said the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. "By mandate of the supreme pontiff, for the year 2020 only," the congregation issued guidelines March 19 for celebrating the triduum and

"The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes."

Easter liturgies without the presence of the faithful. "Easter is at the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time," said the "Decree in the Time of COVID-19." The decree was signed by Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation, and by Archbishop Arthur Roche, secretary. Because the chrisem Mass is not formally part of the triduum, they said, a bishop can decide to postpone its celebration. Usually the Mass is celebrated during Holy Week and includes a gathering of all the priests of the diocese to renew their priestly promises. Where public Masses have been canceled, the decree said, the bishops, in agreement with their bishops' conference, should ensure that the Holy Week liturgies are celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches. The faithful should be advised of the times for the celebrations, so that they can pray at home at the same time. "Live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful," the decree said. The congregation issued an updated decree March 25. The updated and original decrees follow, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

March 25 Decree

Considering the rapidly evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into account observations that have come

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