



---

# DIOCESE *of* GAYLORD

---

## LITURGICAL NORMS AND PROCEDURES UPON THE DEATH OF A POPE AND THE ELECTION OF HIS SUCCESSOR

### Norms Upon News of the Death of a Pope

1 Upon news of the death of the Pope, the Diocesan Bishop will contact all the parishes and Catholic schools in his territory asking for immediate prayers for the deceased Pope. The custom of praying the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* for the repose of the soul of the deceased Pope is to be encouraged, especially with school children. A rosary may also appropriately be recited for the same intention.

2 Parish church bells may be tolled upon hearing the news. If the news arrives during the night, the Diocesan Bishop may appoint a specific time for all parishes in his territory to ring the bells in solidarity.

3 A portrait of the deceased Pope may be displayed in the church. Memorial cards with an image of the deceased Pope and a prayer for the repose of his soul may be printed and distributed.

Black bunting may be hung around the main exterior entrance(s) of churches as a sign of mourning. This bunting should be removed after the funeral for the deceased Pope in Rome.

4 Both the bishop and priests in every parish should offer a Mass for the deceased Pope. Mass offered by the Diocesan Bishop at the Cathedral or in each Vicariate for the attendance of as many faithful as possible is desirable.

### Norms for Masses Offered for the Deceased Pope

5 Masses may be celebrated whenever Masses for the Dead are permitted in the "Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar," as indicated in the Ordo.

#### *Liturgical color*

6 While normally white, violet, or black vestments can be worn for a Mass for the Dead, "it is customary for red vestments to be worn at a Mass for the Dead offered for a Pope since we are mourning the death of the successor of the Apostle Peter" (Committee on Divine Worship, USCCB).

### *Proper prayers*

**7** The *Roman Missal* provides proper prayers to be used at Masses in memorial of a deceased Pope under Masses for the Dead, IV. Various Prayers for the Dead, I. For a Pope. An optional prayer for the deceased Pope with instructions for its use is also available in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, par. 398, no. 14.

### *The homily*

**8** The homily at this Mass should highlight how the mystery of Jesus' victorious death and resurrection was present in the life of the Pope. His faithfulness to the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery should be a central topic. Pastoral concerns which he stressed throughout his pontificate, especially those which are the topic of encyclicals he authored, might also be highlighted.

The homily should assist the Church to face this moment with great hope. If the celebrant has any personal reflections about the Holy Father, these would be more appropriately offered following the Prayer After Communion.

### *Universal Prayer*

**9** At all Masses celebrated during the time of mourning after the death of the Pope, petitions may be offered in the Universal Prayer. The following are provided as suggestions:

**That Pope N., called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the heavenly banquet, we pray to the Lord.**

**That Pope N., who served the Church as Supreme Pope for n. years, may rejoice with the saints in the heavenly Jerusalem, we pray to the Lord.**

**That the tireless efforts of Pope N., now called to the Lord, may bear fruit in unity, peace, and love among all men and women, we pray to the Lord.**

**For Pope N., who boldly proclaimed the Gospel to all ends of the earth, that he may rejoice forever in heaven, we pray to the Lord.**

### *The Eucharistic Prayer*

**10** Any one of the Prefaces for the Dead (*Roman Missal*, par. 78-82) may be used. The Commemoration of the Dead should remember the deceased Pope. Eucharistic Prayers II and III are especially appropriate for Masses for the Dead.

The intercession for the Pope is omitted until his successor is named.

## Liturgy of the Hours

11 The Office of the Dead may appropriately be celebrated for the deceased Pope, either individually or in public celebrations, using the norms found in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, par. 348-396.

12 In public celebrations, a brief homily may be given after the reading and responsory. After the Concluding Prayer and before the dismissal, the Diocesan Bishop, priest presider, or someone he invites may speak in remembrance of the deceased Pope.

13 On days permitted in the “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar,” as indicated in the Ordo, the closing prayer of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer may be taken from the Masses for the Dead, For a Pope.

## Norms During the Time of Election of a New Pope

14 After the Conclave has begun, the Diocesan Bishop and priests of the diocese may celebrate a Mass for the Election of a Pope or a Bishop, found in the *Roman Missal*, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For Holy Church, 4. For the Election of a Pope or a Bishop.

Such Masses may be celebrated whenever Masses for Various Needs and Occasions are permitted in the “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar,” as indicated in the Ordo.

15 It is desirable that the Diocesan Bishop celebrate the Mass for the Election of a Pope or a Bishop at the Cathedral or in each Vicariate for the attendance of as many faithful as possible.

### *Readings*

16 The proper readings for a Mass for the Election of a Pope or a Bishop can be found in the *Lectionary for Mass*, nos. 833-837.

### *The homily*

17 The homily should reflect on the Petrine ministry and its role within the Church. It also affords the homilist an opportunity to instruct the faithful in the relationship between the local and the universal Church.

### *Universal Prayer*

18 Petitions for the successful election of a new Pope are appropriately included in all Masses while the Enclave is in session. Examples include:

**That the Holy Spirit will inspire and strengthen the cardinal-electors as they choose a new Holy Father to lead us, we pray to the Lord.**

**That the College of Cardinals in its electoral process may be a worthy vehicle of God's grace guiding the Church, we pray to the Lord.**

**That the Holy Spirit will work strongly in the next Pope chosen by the College of Cardinals, we pray to the Lord.**

*Liturgy of the Hours*

**19** On days permitted in the “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar,” as indicated in the Ordo, the closing prayer of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer may be taken from the Mass for the Election of a Pope or a Bishop.

**20** The faithful should be exhorted to offer their private prayers and works of penance (e.g. fasting, almsgiving) for the successful election of a new Pope. The custom of frequent praying of the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* for this intention is encouraged. A rosary may also appropriately be recited for the same intention.

**Norms Upon the Election of a New Pope**

**21** Upon news of the election of a new Pope, the Diocesan Bishop will contact all the parishes and Catholic schools in his territory. Gold and white bunting may be hung around the main exterior entrance(s) of churches as a sign of rejoicing. This bunting should be removed after a period of nine days.

**22** Upon the election of a new Pope, the Diocesan Bishop and priests of the diocese may celebrate a Mass for the Pope (Especially on the Anniversary of Election) found in the *Roman Missal*, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For Holy Church, 2. For the Pope.

Such Masses may be celebrated, with the color white, provided it does not occur on a Sunday of Advent, Lent or Easter, on a Solemnity, on Ash Wednesday, or on a weekday of Holy Week.

**23** It is desirable that the Diocesan Bishop celebrate the Mass for the Pope at the Cathedral or in each Vicariate for the attendance of as many faithful as possible.