



Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission

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REPLIES TO QUESTIONS REGARDING CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AND ASH WEDNESDAY

1. How can our Archdiocese create an "ash Friday" instead of Ash Wednesday?

This commission would like to affirm that neither we nor the Archbishop, are instituting, the arbitrarily termed, "Ash-Friday". Given the cultural sensitivity of the Chinese Lunar New Year festivity, the Archbishop has granted the permission for the Celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year Mass in the Archdiocese.

Whilst taking into the consideration the 'ancient practice of marking the baptized with ashes as a public communal sign of penance during the season of lent¹, we have found it opportune to have the observance of the imposition of ashes moved to Friday after Ash Wednesday.

2. Which prayers do we pray on Chinese New Year? When does our Archdiocese begin Lent? Do we continue to sing the Alleluia?

Since the Universal Church has begun the Lenten Season the ALLELUIA is suppressed. The Verse before the Gospel is used with the appropriate Lenten acclamations.

3. What colour vestments do we use? RED

4. Which readings do we follow for the Thursday after Chinese New Year? Do we pray the prayers for Ash Wednesday on Friday?

Hours: ASH WEDNESDAY Pss IV; MP Prop Ant and Pss Fri III

Thursday after Ash Wednesday: Liturgy as per *ORDO*.

Archdiocesan Communal celebration of imposition of Ashes (11th Feb 2005):

- The readings are of the liturgy for Friday after Ash Wednesday.
- The Penitential rite is omitted.
- After the homily the celebration of imposition of Ashes are to be done in accordance to the rites given on Ash Wednesday.

The *ORDO* is incorrect. Please make use of the following:

- Lenten Weekday (after Ash Wednesday)
- Violet HOURS Pss IV
- MASS (Penitential rite omit) Prop Lenten Pf I-IV
- Is 58:1-9a Ps 50 Mt 9:14-15

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¹ (Rituale Romanum no. 1656, Order of Blessing and distribution of Ashes during Lent, ICEL 1989)