



Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission

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URGENT

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese

Remembers the Holy Father Pope John Paul II

BY INSTRUCTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SINGAPORE

Dear and Reverend Fathers, religious brothers and sisters,

With the demise of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, His Grace the Archbishop, in accordance with the Protocol of the Roman Catholic Church has called for a *Novendiales* to be observed throughout the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore.

It is desired that the following **OBSERVANCE are closely followed by **ALL** Parishes and religious communities.**

Mourning the Pope

An official mourning period of nine days, called the Novendiales, begins when a Pope dies. The day of death is counted as the first day of this period. On each of these nine days the Mass must be a funeral rite for the Pope.

Indeed, the Missal provides a Mass formula "For a Deceased Pope" which can be used by any priest during this time, if the liturgical season permits.

Prior to his burial, and following private rites in the Sistine Chapel, the Pope is laid in state in St. Peter's Basilica, permitting the faithful to pay their respects. Between the fourth and sixth day after his death (that is, on the 5th, 6th or 7th day of the mourning period) a Solemn Funeral is celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica by the Dean of the College of Cardinals, with the other Cardinals. The deceased Pope is then buried, most likely in the crypt of St. Peter's. The mourning period then continues until the nine days are completed.

Protocol

For Period of Mourning and Conclave



LITURGICAL NOTES AND RESOURCE MATERIALS
FOR USE UPON THE DEATH OF THE POPE

Churches and Chapels of schools and religious community

A. Tolling of the Church Bells/Carillon:

(i.e Bell are to set to “funeral” mode)

- Upon receiving the news of the death, the church bells/carillon may be tolled (Some traditions suggest the bells be tolled once for each year of life and for each year of the pope’s pastoral responsibility.)
- The Church bells/carillon may be tolled at the time of the parish Mass.
- The Church bells/carillon may be tolled on the day of the funeral.

B. Photo of the Holy Father and Easter Candle:

A photo of the Holy Father may be placed along with the Easter candle near the Font, narthex, or at the entrance of the Church. The photo may be draped in red or purple. This photo should remain during the 9 days of mourning for the deceased pope.

C. Bunting of Church Entrances:

Red or purple bunting is used for draping of church entrances. Red is the color that is used for Papal Funerals and for Masses in the Vatican and in Rome for the 9 days of mourning.

D. Offering of Masses

ALL Priests are obliged to offer Masses during this period of Mourning for the Holy Father until the period of *Novendiales* is completed

E. The Name of the Pope in the Eucharistic Prayer

Upon his death, the name of the deceased Pope is no longer used in the Eucharistic Prayer.

F. Divine office for the Dead

Evening Prayer of the Office of the Dead (paragraphs 348 - 395 of the *Order of Christian Funerals*) are to be appropriately celebrated for the deceased Pope using the prayers mentioned above. Following the reading, a brief homily may be given. After the concluding prayer and before the dismissal, the Diocesan Bishop may speak in remembrance of the deceased Pope.

General Intercessions

At all the Masses and office celebrated during the time of mourning after the Pope's death petitions can be offered in the Intercessions. The following are provided as suggestions:

1. That Pope N., called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the banquet table of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
2. That Pope N., who served the Church as Supreme Pontiff for so many years, may worship God for ever in the liturgy of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Other Suggestions

If there is time, memorial cards might be printed with the deceased Pope's picture and a brief biography on the back. One of the prayers cited above may be placed on the card. In the church sanctuary, a fitting picture of the deceased Pontiff might be discreetly placed on view.

Election of the Pope

A. **At the announcement of the election of the pope**, a chancery/media briefing will again be called in the lobby of the chancery. relevant information, will be distributed to parishes, schools, and other appropriate organizations.

B. **A Mass will be celebrated** following the announcement at Cathedral.

C. **All parishes will also celebrate Mass** within a reasonable period of time, depending upon notification date and time.

D. The Name of the Pope in the Eucharistic Prayer:

Upon his election, the name of the new Pope is to be used in the Eucharistic Prayer.

E. Bunting of the Church Entrances:

As a sign of joy, the main entrance of the Church may be draped in white and gold, the papal colors. These would replace the bunting that was used throughout the period of mourning and during the Conclave.

F. Pealing of the Church Bells:

When word is received of the new Holy Father's election, the church bells may be rung using the most joyful of our peals. The bells may ring in peal on the day of the Holy Father's Installation which is usually the Sunday following the Conclave.