



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Special Circular

FEBRUARY, 2021 /No. 101.1

TO ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WORKING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS,

Dear Msgri. Rev. Frs., Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

1. Celebration of 2021 Lenten Season and Holy Week:

Ash Wednesday:

1. Parishes are to source for ashes from the previous Palm Sunday or earlier ones or any other dignified source.
2. Given the fact that women wear head gears when they come to Mass and in order to respect COVID-19 restrictions, ashes are to be **administered by putting the ashes on the palm of each person in silence while the person signs himself or herself and their small children with it.**
3. Either of the two formulas for administering ashes in the Missal is addressed to the congregation only once before administering the ashes.
4. Stations of the Cross should be held on Fridays alone except at the Marian Shrine in Maryland and in parishes where it is also celebrated in Yoruba language on Wednesdays. The faithful is encouraged to do stations of the cross in private as a private devotion in the Lenten season.

Holy Week and Triduum

Chrism Mass 2021: will be celebrated at **Holy Cross Cathedral and the Catholic Church of the Nativity, Festac** on the scheduled dates. All Priests are expected to be in attendance. Deans are to arrange for two delegates to be sent from each parish in their Deaneries while only the Presidents and Secretaries of Archdiocesan Laity Council, Archdiocesan CWO, CMO,

CYON and Papal Knights or any two persons that they choose should also participate at the Masses to represent them.

Good Friday: No individual Veneration of the Cross but a moment of silent veneration of the cross when all would kneel gazing at, Jesus on the Cross just before the procession that ends the service.

The rest of the Triduum should follow the liturgical rites as prescribed. We expect Parish Priests to enforce strict observance of the COVID-19 regulations and also to take note that the curfew imposed by government is still in force as they fix the time for Easter Vigil ceremonies. The ceremonies should end with enough time for people to get back to their homes before the curfew.

2. CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH IN LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE

We are all aware of the declaration of the Year of St. Joseph by Pope Francis. The formal take-off of the year would be on the **feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary i.e., March 19, 2021**. We expect the Parish Priests and Priests-in-charge to lead the faithful of their parishes in a worthy celebration of the year.

1. Votive Masses of St. Joseph are to be celebrated every Wednesday throughout the year except in Holy Week and the Octave of Easter.
2. The Prayers to St. Joseph should be said at Masses on Wednesdays and Sundays after Post Communion Prayer.
3. Families are encouraged to pray the Prayer to St. Joseph and the Litany of St. Joseph as part of their family devotion.
4. Charity Outreach (St Joseph's Table): Parishes are to organize charity outreach to the needy and poor.
5. Archdiocesan Events celebrating the Year of St Joseph:

Date	Event	Venue	Those to attend
Friday, 19 th March 2021, 10am	Inauguration of the Year of St Joseph in the	Holy Cross, Cathedral, Lagos	All Deans and two representatives from each Deanery. Major

	<p>Archdiocese.</p> <p>Unveiling of the Archdiocesan Logo of the Year and presentation to the Deans and representatives of the Deaneries.</p>	<p>Mass would be televised Live on Lumen Christi</p>	<p>Superiors of Female Religious Congregations, Two Representatives from the Archdiocesan Laity Council, Two Representatives from the CMO and CWO</p>
<p>Saturday, 1st May, 2021, 10am.</p>	<p>Mass of the Solemnity of St Joseph the Worker.</p> <p>Blessing of the Grotto of St. Joseph</p>	<p>Marian Shrine, Maryland</p>	<p>Different groups of workers, professionals.</p> <p>YCW</p>
<p>Wednesday, 8th December, 2021</p>	<p>Closing mass for the Year of St Joseph.</p>	<p>Marian Shrine, Maryland</p>	

6. Veneration of the Image of St. Joseph: The faithful are encouraged to visit the following parishes where an altar or grotto of St. Joseph would be erected.

- i. Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos
- ii. Ss. Philip and James, Lekki
- iii. Marian Shrine, Maryland
- iv. Church of the Nativity, Festac
- v. St Leo Ikoga Zebbe, Badagry

7. Priests and Associations of the lay faithful should encourage and organize opportunities for reflection on the virtues of St. Joseph according to the themes set out as follows:

April: St Joseph, a beloved father
May: St Joseph, a tender loving Father
June: St Joseph, an obedient father
July: St Joseph, a Beloved Father
August: St Joseph, an accepting father
September: St Joseph, a Beloved Father
October: St Joseph, a creatively courageous father
November: St Joseph, a working father
December: St Joseph, a father in the shadows

8. Parish priests and chaplains of Associations of the lay faithful should create awareness of the Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, of Pope Francis which he wrote to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron the Universal Church. Everyone should make efforts to read the Apostolic Letter.

May the Lord grant us a fruitful celebration of Lent and Easter. May the entire Year of St. Joseph draw us closer to God and help us to attain holiness of life.

(Signed)

+ Alfred Adewale Martins
Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos
15th February, 2021