

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE June 10, 2021
TO Priests and Deacons
FROM Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon
SUBJECT The Liturgical Function of the Deacon in Stage 2

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarity on the liturgical role and function of deacons during Stage 2 of the Province's Open for Summer Plan as requested by members of the Permanent Diaconate Council to the Bishop.

We recognize during this pandemic the readiness of the permanent deacons to adjust their liturgical role and functions according to the health and safety measures. Many deacons have been able to carry out their non-liturgical ministries of service where restrictions permitted. This has been an important sign of Christ the Servant within the parish and community.

Since last year, with the easing of some restrictions, the deacons have been able to assist and serve at the Mass.

With the slow reintroduction of altar servers in Stage 2, the following guidelines are being provided for clarification on the liturgical function of permanent deacons and altar servers.

When two (2) altar servers are serving at Mass

- As a general principle, all altar serving functions will be carried out by altar servers at the Mass as was done pre-pandemic.
- As a general principle, the function of the deacon is to be exercised as indicated in par. 171-186 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)
- The invitation to the Sign of Peace is still omitted in Stage 2.

When one (1) altar server is serving at Mass

- The carrying of the candles at the proclamation of the gospel is omitted.

Note: The purification of the vessels will only be carried out by the priest.

As should be the normal practise, it would be once again beneficial for both the priests and deacons to review the GIRM. You may also refer to the *Deacon Liturgical Guidelines while Assisting at Mass* document of the Diocese developed by Fr. Nathan Siray.