



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII  
**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
WITNESS TO JESUS

MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors

From: Rev. Alfred Omar Guerrero, Director of Office of Worship

Date: July 25, 2021

Subject: Update-Funerals during the Coronavirus Pandemic

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Bishop Larry Silva has made the following change to the *Diocesan Guidelines for COVID-19* effective immediately:

**Funerals in churches are allowed with the body of the deceased present if the mortuary is permitted to transport the body. The Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass may be at full capacity with 6' social distancing and the indoor mask mandate enforced.**

It should be noted that if the body is not permitted to be taken to the church, the Funeral Mass may still be celebrated without the presence of the body, and the rites of blessing the body and Commendation and Farewell can take place as a part of the Committal service. This should be at the discretion of the family of the deceased.

As a reminder, our Catholic funeral rites are intended to bring consolation to those who are grieving, affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and his victory over sin and death, and express our Christian hope in eternal life. The three principal rites together- Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Committal- form an integrated sequence of rites. Pastors should ensure the Church's pastoral care for the bereaved.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Worship.