



## FUNERALS DURING THE TIME OF COVID-19

There have been some concerns from our priests regarding the provision of funerals during this time of pandemic specifically for those who have died with the Corona Virus.

Although the Archdiocese has recommended that funeral Masses continue in these days, observing the state gathering limits and social distancing requirements, it now seems unwise to hold funerals for those who have died with the virus, since there is a high risk that the attendees could have come into contact with the virus and may be incubating.

Therefore, at this time the Archdiocese of Portland instructs its priest to defer funeral Masses for those who have died with Covid-19. If it seems appropriate, the Rite of Committal can still be carried out at the graveside, even the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass can be celebrated at the graveside, again if deemed appropriate.

It is important that Holy Mass be offered for our beloved dead. Given that some parishes may be struggling to meet the demand of their regular stipends, if a Mass is needed to be offered for the repose of the soul of a recently deceased parishioner, priests can contact this office and we will arrange for the Mass to be celebrated.

A 'Memorial' Mass involving the family and friends of the deceased should be offered for the deceased as soon as public Masses are allowed.

14 April 2020