



ARCHBISHOP OF KUCHING

P. O. Box 940, 93718 KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

TEL: +6082-242634 FAX: +6082-246940

To our priests and all Catholics,

27th February 2022

SOP for Ash Wednesday & Stations of the Cross in LENT

- ✓ Check in with MySejahtera or manual recording
- ✓ Temperature check is optional but highly recommended
- ✓ Wear mask at all times & bring personal sanitising liquid
- ✓ Maintain 1-meter physical distance while in Church
- ✓ Only fully vaccinated persons are allowed in Church
- ✓ Children 12 years & below are not encouraged, unless accompanied by adult
- ✓ Elderly or anyone with serious underlying health issues are not encouraged
- ✓ No socialising before, during & after Mass or Stations of the Cross Service

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY 2nd MAR 2022

Blessing & Distribution of Ashes take place immediately after the Homily. The Priest blesses the prepared ashes, using the prayer from the Roman Missal (p. 234), and lightly sprinkles the ashes with Holy Water. For Imposition of Ashes:

1. Priest / minister sanitises or washes hands with soap
2. Ashes are distributed in the following manner:
 - (i) Priest pronounces only ONCE the formula for imposition of ashes:
either: *“Repent, and believe in the Gospel”*
or: *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”*
 - (ii) Priest / minister takes a pinch of the ashes using thumb and finger
 - (iii) Ashes are dropped onto the crown of the head of the person - in silence and without drawing of cross on the forehead with the thumb
3. After ash distribution is completed, priest / minister sanitises or washes hands
4. Mass resumes with the Prayer of the Faithful
5. The current SOP for Mass is to be strictly observed

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

This SOP seeks to minimise points of contact between parishioners in Church. Accordingly, shared Prayer Books for congregation will not be used. Projection slides are recommended. Parishioners are to remain in same place in pew at all time.

1. An assigned altar server (with mask), carrying the processional cross, begins at the sanctuary and then moves from Station to Station
2. Priest or person assigned, is to remain at the Presidential Chair or Lectern, and leads the whole Stations of the Cross prayer from there
3. Parishioners are to remain in their seats - standing & kneeling accordingly
4. When there is Mass scheduled after the Stations of the Cross, the Priest processes into the Church as per Sunday Mass. All are to observe Mass SOP accordingly.

We trust that with the above precautions, we will ensure the safety of everyone who enters our Churches for Mass, Stations of the Cross and prayers during this blessed Lenten Season. Let us intercede with **PRAYERS, ALMSGIVING, FASTING & PENANCE (read Matthew 6:1-18)** for divine intervention on the current pandemic. May our heavenly Father, hear our prayer and heal our world. 🙏

✠ *Archbishop Simon Poh, Archdiocese of Kuching, Malaysia.*