



EPARCHY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL OF MELBOURNE FOR UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA

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RESOLUTIONS OF THE SOBORCHYK OF THE CLERGY OF THE UKRAINIAN EPARCHY OF MELBOURNE 6-10 JUNE 2022 AD, MILLGROVE (MELBOURNE)

In order to re-new the Liturgical Life of the Eparchy of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, the Soborchyk of Clergy held a series of working meetings at Pallotti College, Millgrove. Based on the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, the Particular Law of the UGCC, the Catechism of the UGCC “Christ – our Pascha”, the Instruction on the Application of Liturgical Precepts of the CCEC, the Instruction on Organizing Book Publishing, Instruction on Submission and Approval of Liturgical Texts, – the Soborchyk worked out and proposed the following resolutions to the Most Reverend Bishop Mykola, Eparch for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania:

1. To establish the Eparchial Liturgical Commission. In its activities, the Commission must be guided by the “Model Statute of the Eparchial Liturgical Commission of the UGCC”.

LITURGICAL TEXTS:

2. To instruct the Eparchial Liturgical Commission to review all printed liturgical books used in the Eparchy (the books of Lent, Holy Week, Funeral, Holy Mysteries). Bring all books in accordance with the approved texts of the UGCC.
3. To instruct the Eparchial Liturgical Commission to develop new bilingual books for the needs of the Eparchy.
4. In order to better understand the posture, movements and processions in the church, include rubrics for the faithful in the new books.
5. To instruct the Administrators to check that all available Liturgical Books in the parishes are in accordance with the list of the approved books of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.
6. To remind and emphasize to the clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy that in the parish liturgical life it is necessary to use the approved texts of prayers.
7. To instruct the Liturgical Commission to create an electronic database of Liturgical texts for the Eparchy of Ss Peter and Paul; and to consider creating software for prayer books and other texts.
8. To remind the clergy of the obligation to use printed books, not phones or tablets etc during church services.
9. To encourage the laity to use electronic versions of prayer texts if it is not possible to use printed ones. It is necessary, however, to remind the faithful about the culture of using electronic technology during services.

CHURCH FEASTS:

10. To emphasize the importance of celebrating the Feasts of the Liturgical Year at the appropriate season and time. Decide not to transfer the celebration of major feasts until Sunday. Recall the list of major feasts and other Great Feasts when the Church invites the faithful to participate in the Divine Liturgy.



11. Through advertisements in the Parish Bulletin, as well as through catechesis or short announcements at the end of the Divine Liturgy, remind the faithful of the importance and significance of the Church Feasts and the impossibility of replacing them with national ones.
12. To emphasize and remind the faithful of the importance of blessings and sanctifications. Through catechesis/advertisements in parish bulletin/short announcements, remind that the blessings of various things/goods (water, herbs, candles, fruits) are part of the celebration of the church feasts, so they should be performed on the appropriate days, not postponed until Sunday.
13. To remind and encourage the faithful to prepare the items for blessings together with the family at home, and not to receive everything necessary from the church.
14. To develop the possibility for parishes to commemorate national heroes and national holidays on Saturdays or on appropriate dates approved by Ukraine, in order to be in accordance with Ukraine.

CHURCH SERVICES OF THE GREAT LENT AND THE HOLY WEEK:

15. To emphasize and remind the clergy and the faithful of the importance and practice of the A-liturgical Days during Great Lent.
16. To remind and decide that during Great Lent on weekdays only the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts can be served, on Saturday – the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, and on Sunday – St. Basil the Great.
17. To remind that the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts may be freely celebrated on all weekdays of Lent, not only on Wednesdays and/or Fridays.
18. If there is a need to commemorate (40th day or anniversary) the deceased parishioners during Lent – this intention can be taken during the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, or postponed to Saturday commemorated during the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
19. To recall and emphasize the importance of commemorating the deceased during Great Lent. Parastas-Sorokousty may be celebrated separately from the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and is not part of it.
20. To remind and emphasize the importance of the Great Penitential Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and pray it on Thursday of the fifth week of the Great Lent. Decide to serve the full Canon (without abbreviations/shortening), which can be taken separately without Matins.
21. To encourage the clergy to pray the Rite of Soboruvannia during the Lent.
22. To encourage to serve in the parishes the “Matins of Bridegroom” on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.
23. To remind and decide to serve the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, and not the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
24. To encourage the priests of the Eparchy to come to the Cathedral on Holy Thursday for a common Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great and the possibility of performing the Rite of washing the feet.
25. To remind the faithful of the importance of the Matins of the Passion and encourage them to participate in this service.
26. To encourage all to serve and pray the Royal Hours on Great and Holy Friday in the morning.
27. To decide in all parishes of the Eparchy not to celebrate the Vespers with the exposition of the Holy Shroud earlier than 3pm on Great and Holy Friday.
28. To encourage all to observe the service of Jerusalem Matins on Great and Holy Saturday in the morning, but for the good of the faithful it may be celebrated on the evening of Great and Holy Friday, when necessary.

29. To encourage the faithful to participate in the Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on Great and Holy Saturday. Encourage all to serve this Service on Saturday afternoon.
30. To decide in all parishes of the Eparchy not to celebrate Resurrection Matins earlier than midnight (12:00am) on Sunday. It is possible to start the "Prayer at the Tomb" or Compline at 11.30pm.

HOLY MYSTERIES:

31. To remind and decide that according to the tradition and customs of our Church, the faithful receive in one day the Three Mysteries of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation) and the Holy Eucharist.
32. To remind the faithful of the requirements of Canon Law regarding the administration of the Mystery of Baptism.
33. To oblige administrators to hold at least one catechesis meeting with parents and godparents before administering the Mysteries of Christian Initiation.
34. To encourage and invite the faithful to come to the church on the Sunday before the Baptism for the short service of The Giving of the Name, and participation in the Divine Liturgy with the opportunity to receive the Mystery of Confession (Repentance) for parents and godparents.
35. To offer the faithful two possibilities of administering the Mystery of Baptism: through triple immersion or through the pouring of water (perfusion).
36. To offer the faithful the possibility of administering the Mystery of Christian Initiation during the Divine Liturgy.
37. To remind and emphasize that at the time of the Rite of Churching only a boy is brought into the sanctuary.
38. Through catechesis/advertisements in parish bulletin/short announcements, remind the faithful of the meaning of Confession and encourage frequent participation in this Mystery.
39. To set an appropriate time in each parish and inform the faithful when the priest will administer the Mystery of Confession.
40. To remind the faithful of the difference between Confession and spiritual conversation/direction.
41. To encourage the faithful to practice the Examination of Conscience daily and provide templates of the Examination of Conscience before Confession.
42. To remind and emphasize that there is no rite of "communal" Confession in our Church.
43. Through catechesis/advertisements in parish news/short announcements, remind the faithful of the meaning of the Mystery of the Holy Communion and the conditions for the proper preparation and reception of this Mystery.
44. To decide that the preparation for the Mystery of Confession from 2023 AD in our Eparchy should begin only for children who have reached 8 years of age at the time of preparation.
45. To emphasize the duty and opportunity for children to partake of Holy Communion each time they attend church at the Liturgy (Sundays and feasts) until they reach the age of reason.
46. To emphasize to the clergy and the faithful that, according to the tradition of our Church, the Holy Mystery of Holy Communion is administered to the faithful only by priests and deacons.
47. To encourage priests to use the Rite of the Communion of the Sick at home.
48. Through catechesis/advertisements in parish news/short announcements, remind the faithful of the significance of the Mystery of Anointing of the Sick and the possibility of administering this Mystery.
49. Through catechesis/advertisements in parish news/short announcements, recall the prayer "for the departure of the soul" (Last Rite) read by the priest at the time of death.

OTHER CHURCH SERVICES:

50. To decide that the Funeral in our Eparchy is served without the Divine Liturgy.
51. To encourage the faithful to honour the memory and pray for the deceased on the 3rd, 9th and 40th days of participation in the Divine Liturgy.
52. In the days of remembrance, encourage the faithful to pray the Panakhyda after the Divine Liturgy, not Parastas.
53. To encourage priests and the faithful to the frequent use of the prayer of the Hours in the parish, during the great church feasts, and in a special way, Festal Great Vespers and Matins.
54. To encourage priests and the faithful to pray other paraliturgical services, such as Molebens and Akathists.
55. To decide to serve the blessing of water in short on the Patronal Feast of the Parish.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOUR AND POSTURE IN A CHURCH:

56. To remind the clergy of the obligation to observe the rubrics during services. Pay attention to the vestments, posture and order in the sanctuary.
57. To instruct administrators to remind the faithful about the posture of the body during worship. Emphasis should be made upon the appropriate moments for standing, sitting and kneeling and prostration.
58. To emphasize that, according to the tradition of the Eastern Churches, every believer fulfills his or her role in the church during worship services. Roles are not better or worse and do not discriminate against the sons and daughters of God, but each have their distinct roles. Therefore, only boys are allowed to serve in the holy altar, whilst girls are encouraged to hold banners, candles etc. and to join in the singing and responses with the congregation.
59. To instruct the Liturgical Commission to prepare short information brochures on the Mysteries of Christian Initiation, the Mystery of Matrimony, and the Mystery of Anointing of the Sick.
60. Do not encourage the faithful to give eulogies in church during the Funeral Service. Only one speech (eulogy) of 5-7 minutes can be permitted, if it is absolutely the wish of the family to do so. All other speeches may be delivered in the cemetery, after the lowering of the coffin or during the refreshments.
61. To prohibit the playing of music or slideshows in a church during the Funeral Service. This can be done at the Funeral Home or during the refreshments.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SOBORCHYK OF THE CLERGY OF THE EPARCHY OF THE HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL FOR UKRAINIAN CATHOLICS IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA,

I, MYKOLA, BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL IN MELBOURNE, HEREBY DECIDE TO GIVE EFFECT TO ALL RESOLUTIONS OF THE CLERGY COUNCIL WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THEIR PUBLICATION AND OBLIGE THE CLERGY AND THE FAITHFUL OF THE EPARCHY TO ABIDE BY THEM.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!




 + MYKOLA BYCHOK, CSsR
 EPARCH OF MELBOURNE

*Given in Melbourne, at our Cathedral of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul,
 on the 24th day of June, in the Year of Our Lord 2022, the Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas.*