



## Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

05<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To the Archbishops and Bishops  
To be communicated to Parish Priests and all the faithful

Following the Directives of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Commission for Liturgy finalised their deliberations today and wish to give the following directives for the distribution of ashes at the commencement of Lent in the Conference Territory of the SACBC:

In order to avoid physical contact between persons but at the same time respecting the communication between persons in the administration of the sacraments and sacramentals,

- The blessed ashes be sprinkled on the crown of the head as directed by the CDW; or
- The blessed ashes be sprinkled in one hand of the persons receiving who then sign themselves on the forehead
- The ashes should be dry so as to make it possible for sprinkling
- The distribution of the ashes need not take place during the celebration of Mass but within a liturgy of the Word.

This last foresees that parishes may avail the faithful of the opportunity for receiving the ashes in small groups of 50 when inside a church; or 100 when gathered in the open air, at regular intervals throughout the day or days following Ash Wednesday.

Yours faithfully

Bishop Duncan Tsoke  
Auxiliary Bishop of Johannesburg  
Liaison Bishop of the Department for Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture