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## **CIRCULAR LETTER TO BISHOPS ON THE BREAD AND WINE FOR THE EUCHARIST**

- See Attachment

## **THE COMMUNION PROCESSION**

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is the definitive guide for the celebration of the Mass. In the version approved for Australia in 2012 it contains a number of provisions that were submitted to the Holy See, in accordance with Chapter 11 of the GIRM, and these were subsequently confirmed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and are included in the version of the General Instruction found in the edition approved for use in Australia published by the Catholic Truth Society in association with St Pauls Publications.

Paragraph 160 provides the direction for the Communion Procession and there is a specific provision for an Australian adaptation. What is not addressed is the custom in many parishes of parents presenting their children (who have not yet received First Holy Communion) for a blessing during this Procession. It is also to be noted that some adult persons also present themselves for a blessing during the Procession. There is currently no suggestion in the GIRM as to how these groups should be accommodated. The GIRM would seem to indicate that only communicants should take part in the procession, but of course communicate adults with children will want their children to accompany them to the communion station.

Many priests and deacons will offer a blessing to children as a pastoral gesture, but in recent times instituted acolytes and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion have been observed offering a "blessing" to children. Needless to say they do not have the authority to do so, and it is somewhat misleading for them to extend what is their function as purely ministers of communion. What to do?

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission has discussed this dilemma and it has been on the agenda for several meetings. The following options are suggested to Parish Priests for their consideration and discussion with their Parish Liturgy Committees and also their acolytes, senior servers and extraordinary ministers of communion.



1. That parents with children seeking a blessing (and adults) should place themselves in the line where either a priest or deacon is administering Holy Communion.
2. That at the end of the Communion Procession children might be invited as a group to come forward for a blessing (this is a custom in a few parishes in the Diocese and takes place often during the hymn/song at the end of Communion.)
3. A third option is borrowed from the Maronite Rite and would require some catechesis before implementation. For children a Maronite priest/deacon simply places the ciborium on the top of the head of the child without any words. This signals a recognition of baptism and they will ultimately join fully at the altar. Maronite children are prepared from a young age to know to put their heads down when they come forward in the procession with their parents. As Pope St John Paul II reminds us, "the Church needs to learn to breathe with both lungs!"

If Parish Priests and those on Parish Liturgy Committees elect to implement any of these options, it is very important that none of them are introduced without suitable preparation of the assembly. Please ensure that you either write in the parish bulletin, or speak about it (if there is a change of practice foreshadowed) at notice time.

### **DIOCESAN MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

In 2016 Bishop Vincent appointed our first lay Diocesan Master of Ceremonies who is Mr Chris Ohlsen (who also serves as the Bishop's executive assistant.)

A Master of Ceremonies in the Catholic Church was originally "an official of the Papal Court responsible for the proper and smooth conduct of the elegant and elaborate rituals involving the Pope and the sacred liturgy." Today, the primary role of the Master of Ceremonies (MC) is to assist in organizing and preparing the Mass and other liturgical celebrations, and directing all liturgical movement so it flows with the proper decorum, particularly those rites performed by the Bishop.

If Bishop Vincent is coming to celebrate a liturgy with your parish, school or community group, it is vital that you contact Chris on either 8838 3403 or email at [COhlsen@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:COhlsen@parra.catholic.org.au) so that he has advanced notice not only for the Bishop's diary, but also that he liaise with the organizers about the liturgy.



## CHOOSING DATES FOR CONFIRMATION

A reminder to Sacramental Coordinators and others involved in the preparation of candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation to check the Ordo before submitting dates for Confirmation in 2018 to the Office for Worship. If you choose a Solemnity then the prayers and readings for the Solemnity must be observed. If you choose a Feast, the permission has to be sought from either the Bishop or Vicar General to celebrate a Ritual Mass of Confirmation. The same principle also applies when school communities are choosing dates for particular celebrations in the course of the school year.

Very Rev. Peter G. Williams  
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia  
Director of Liturgy

## MUSIC COPYRIGHT LICENSING

So that hymn lyrics and melody lines can be legally reproduced or projected to support the singing of the liturgical assembly, parishes need to hold a licence for this purpose. Many parishes have held such a licence with *Word of Life International* for many years; others have more recently have done so with *LicenSing*.

Earlier this year, *LicenSing* merged with fellow USA agency *One License*. Since 1 July, *One License* acquired *Word of Life International*. This means that all parishes that held licences with either *Word of Life* or *LicenSing* are now customers of *One License*. Parishes will almost certainly need to hold a licence with *One License*, as it is now the only agency operating in Australia that represents the vast majority of the Catholic music publishers and composers.

*One License* has contacted all previous *Word of Life* customers to advise them of the transition to *One License*. Parishes need to check that the hymns they are using are covered by *One License*. The *One License* and *Word of Life* catalogues differ, and there may be a small number of titles that former *Word of Life* customers find are no longer covered, and as such can no longer be used.

Another difference that some parishes will notice between *Word of Life* and *One License* is that *One License* does not offer a license for photocopying music scores for musicians. While *Word of Life* did offer a Music Copy Licence, this licence would have been of limited use to parishes as since January 2011, Willow Publishing, OCP Publications and GIA Publications have excluded themselves from this licence. Consequently, at the previous copyright workshops held across the Diocese, the Liturgical Commission has not recommended this licence and instead advised that the best course of action regarding music scores is for parishes to purchase and retain original copies.

In light of these new developments in copyright licensing, the Liturgical Commission has updated its handout *Copyright and Liturgy* from its previous copyright workshops. This has been included with this bulletin for the information of parish staff and liturgical ministers.



## **CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION WITH CHILDREN**

In order to ensure that child protection standards are met when celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Bishop Vincent issued a requirement last month that the sacrament be celebrated with children in an open setting in full view of all participants, who are supervised by staff. The Parish Priest, sacramental coordinators and, where relevant, the school staff are responsible for ensuring that there is a direct line of sight to the individual penitent. This requirement reflects what has already become a standard practice in many schools and parishes. The preparation of such a space for the celebration of the sacrament takes careful consideration, especially to ensure that confessions are not overheard by others. Schools and parishes are encouraged to contact the Office for Worship for advice and assistance if required.

Mr Robert Barden  
Chairperson Diocesan Liturgical Commission

## **DIARY DATES**

- 29 JULY**      **FORMATION WORKSHOP FOR SACRAMENTAL TEAMS AND FACILITATORS**  
Preparing Children for the **Sacrament of Confirmation**  
Held at the IFM 2pm – 4pm
- 2 AUGUST**      **SHORT COURSE BEGINS ON CELEBRATING SACRAMENTS ACU** See attached flyer
- 7 AUGUST**      **LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE BEGINS**  
This is a formation course for those who wish to become involved in Liturgical Ministry in their parish.
- 12 AUGUST**      **FORMATION WORKSHOP FOR SACRAMENTAL TEAMS AND FACILITATORS**  
Preparing Children for the **Sacrament of Penance**  
Held at the IFM 2pm – 4pm
- 17 AUGUST**      **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS – AN INTRODUCTORY EVENING**  
This session is for those new to an RCIA team in the parish and wanting to know more about the process.  
Held at the IFM 7.00 – 9.00 pm.
- 2 SEPTEMBER**      **CATECHESIS FOR ADULT CONFIRMATION**

**For more information about these events contact the OFW.**