

30 July 2014

Diocesan Policy and Guidelines for the Use of New Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children

Introduction

In 2013 the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference approved new translations of three Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children. *Recognitio* was granted by the Congregation for Divine worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome on 1 July 2013.

Later in 2013 Liturgy Brisbane (<http://liturgybrisbane.net.au>) published a new hard-bound edition *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children*. The publication, intended for use on the Altar, has an attractive red cover and comes with one ribbon marker.

The texts included in the publication are:

1. Introduction
2. The Order of Mass - Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - a. Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children I
 - b. Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children II
 - c. Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children III (Outside Easter Time)
 - d. Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children III (Within Easter Time)
3. The Order of Mass - Communion Rite
4. Directory for Masses with Children

It is noteworthy that the number of acclamations in the new Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children has been increased to invite the active participation of the children in the prayer.

The Conference of Bishops have yet to make recommendations of new musical settings for the parts of the prayers to be sung by children.

Policy

In order to promote children's active participation in singing the Mass, the Diocese encourages the use of the new Eucharistic Prayers for Masses where the assembly is comprised mostly of primary school children. This includes primary school Masses and the Year 6 Regional Masses. The new Eucharistic Prayers also have application for Masses with older children with learning development disabilities. The singing of the acclamations by the children greatly enhances their participation in the celebration.

The new Eucharistic Prayers are not to be used for Confirmation Masses, as these Masses involve a large adult population.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission has established a policy of gradual introduction of the three prayers. The policy provides for the use of Eucharistic Prayer I for Masses with Children initially, using the Diocesan Mass setting *Glendalough Mass*. The Diocese is awaiting advice from the National Liturgical Council regarding recommendations for musical settings of the new acclamations in Eucharistic Prayers II and III for Masses with Children. An update to this policy will be made when the new musical settings are determined.

Guidelines for Implementation

Eucharistic Prayer I for Masses with Children includes multiple iterations of singing the two parts of the *Holy, Holy, Holy* acclamation ending with “*Hosanna in the highest*”, as well as the existing three Memorial Acclamation options and the Amen. The Diocesan Mass setting *Glendalough Mass* is to be used for all these acclamations.

The existing *Glendalough Mass* accompaniment, introduction, acclamation tune and ending are readily adaptable to allow singing of the *Holy, Holy, Holy* acclamation in two separate parts, as follows:

Acclamation 1

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation 2

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

To encourage the development of children’s active participation in parish and school Masses, the Diocese will provide a number of in-service opportunities over the next twelve months to clergy, parishes and schools regarding preparation and choice of options for Masses with Children.

Regards

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