

Making the Connections Liturgy and Life

Authentic Catholic spirituality is centred on communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that we may go out into the world to live that mystery, refreshed and restored as agents of God's love

For Catholics the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

That 'the People of God' will be able to make adequate meaningful connection between everyday life and participation in the Eucharist cannot be simply assumed.

The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist must feed those who celebrate: for their work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.

CTM 1, 12, 17

Some Questions

- Where are there connections between the pastoral activity of the parish and Sunday Mass?
- How might connections be made that are neither token nor detrimental to the structure of Sunday Mass?
- What connections are made between sacramental preparation and the social agenda of the church?

Further References

General Instruction of the Roman Missal
16, 65, 69–71

Celebrating the Mass
1–17, 167–169, 171–173, 217–219

Spiritus et Sponsa
6, 8, 12

Mane nobiscum, Domine
24–28

Practical Points

- Provide in the parish newsletter each week the reference for next Sunday's Gospel together with a question for reflection.
- Start a homily preparation group — see the material *In Communion with Christ* — draw on the life of community in the homily.
- Invite parish groups or families to prepare the Prayer of the Faithful. Give clear guidance to the format.
- Bring together annually those who taken part in baptisms, weddings and funerals — to keep the connection open and to offer support.
- Offer a common time of reflection for parish ministers: liturgical, catechetical and pastoral — or a party.

**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
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Questions for Groups

1. What is good about current practice?
What concerns do you have?

4. Who is most directly involved in these matters, e.g. liturgical ministers?
What formation/information is necessary to engage them in the renewal of current practice?

2. In what ways does the documentation affirm or challenge your current practice?

5. How will the assembly be engaged in the process?
What, in particular, needs addressing at Sunday and/or weekday celebrations?

3. Prioritise the issues you have identified.

6. How will you know whether the formation has worked?