

In Communion with Christ

Notes for Liturgy Preparation Groups

Introduction

- This sheet is intended as an aide-memoire for liturgy groups in parishes using *In Communion with Christ*.
- In many parishes the group or some members of it will be part of the homily preparation group.
- To get the most benefit out of *In Communion with Christ* there should be collaboration between homily preparation and parish liturgy preparation.
- Even where there is not a homily preparation group it would be helpful if the liturgy group was familiar with the Introduction to *In Communion with Christ* and the supporting material.
- The group may benefit from using the study material *With Hearts and Minds* to assist its own preparation for embarking on *In Communion with Christ*.
- Well prepared and celebrated liturgy is a fundamental source for catechesis in *In Communion with Christ*. Do not use the time for a blitz of liturgical change but to build up what is already good.
- *In Communion with Christ* may provide a foundation for future liturgical formation. It will be important for the liturgy group (perhaps with others) to reflect at the end of the process of areas for attention.
- The questions below are for review before beginning *In Communion with Christ* — they are no substitute for the reflection on the community's liturgy by the parish liturgy group.

In Communion with Christ

1. Introduction

- What is good about the celebration of Mass in this parish?
- What might there be improvements?

2. Gather — The Introductory Rites

- Check the Entrance and gathering space both inside and outside the Church
 - » Are notices clear and well cared for?
 - » Are the Holy Water Stoups regularly filled and accessible?
- Consider using the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water — the rite assumes that the assembly will be sprinkled.
 - » Provide sufficient water and an effective aspergillum to 'sprinkle' the assembly.
 - » Sing a baptismal or paschal refrain
- Is there a suitable pause for silent prayer at the beginning of the Collect?



3. **Word — the Liturgy of the Word**

- Are there pauses for silent reflection in the Liturgy of the Word?
 - » For example, after the readings, after the homily, after the intentions in the Prayer of the Faithful.
- Is the Gospel Procession a true procession?
 - » Does the sung Gospel Acclamation enhance the procession?
 - » Does it occur at every Sunday Mass?
- What encouragement is there for people to read the scriptures at home?
 - » Bibles or single volumes of Gospels available at parish bookstall
 - » *Bible Alive* available for people; references to readings in Newsletter.

4. **Thanksgiving — the Liturgy of the Eucharist**

- Review the Preparation of Gifts
 - » Is the collection part of the gifts offered?
 - » Are the bread and wine visible?
- The Eucharistic Prayer
 - » Are the Acclamations (Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation & Great Amen) sung at every Sunday Mass?
 - » Is there an opportunity to offer the priest celebrant ‘feedback’ on how the prayer is prayed?

5. **Communion — the Communion Rite**

- Does the Communion Rite flow smoothly from the Amen to the distribution of Holy Communion?
 - » Is the Sign of Peace offered simply to those close by or does it interrupt the flow of the rite?
- Is Communion distributed from the Body of the Lord consecrated at the Mass or is there recourse to the tabernacle?
- Is there Communion under both kinds at every Mass
- What music is used to draw people into Communion as they process to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord.
- Is there an opportunity for silent prayer after the distribution of Communion?

6. **Mission — Concluding Rite**

- What connections are made between the celebration of Mass and the rest of the life of the parish?

