

Guidelines for Ministers of Communion at the Assumption Church

Updated 22 May 2019

Introduction

This ministry is a ministry of hospitality and service, welcoming people to the Cathedral as they gather for Mass and distributing the Body and Blood of Christ to the Congregation. This is a sacred task and requires utmost reverence. Appropriate dress and limited conversation with other Ministers on the Sanctuary should be observed when carrying out this Ministry.

Before Mass & the Entrance Procession

- Please be early – at least 15 minutes before Mass begins.
- The first task for the Ministers of Communion is to **welcome** people as they come into the Cathedral. This **hospitality** is very important. It is more than a routine 'Hello & Welcome'. It's a time to connect with people, learn some names and be a smiling warming presence as people arrive. The bulletin and hymn book is also be given out at this time
- Join in the Entrance Procession from the front Foyer. Bow with the Priest at the steps to the Sanctuary and then return to your seat.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- When the congregation begin to sing or say the 'Lamb of God' (Agnus Dei), make your way to bottom of the steps to the Sanctuary, line up with the other Communion Ministers and bow.
- Process to the left hand side of the Altar and line up shoulder to shoulder with the other communion ministers. If you are distributing the Body of Christ stand in the first three positions on the Sacristy end of the line.
- The Priest gives the Body of Christ to all the ministers and then the Blood of Christ to the first communion minister in line who keeps the Chalice, distributing it to the other communion ministers.
- As the Communion Ministers finish receiving Holy Communion, the Priest gives out the bowls and chalices according to where you stand.
- When people approach you, say 'Body of Christ' or the 'Blood of Christ' and wait for the person to respond with 'Amen' before you give them Holy Communion.
- You need to also be aware that people consume communion before they leave or as they leave. Note any strange behaviour and see the Priest or Acolyte after Mass if you think that someone may have done something other than consume the host. But don't worry about this, it is very rare.
- If you are distributing the chalice, you need to wipe both the inside and outside of the chalice with a new piece of the purifier for each communicant and then turn the cup for the next communicant.

Please turn over

- If a child or adult approaches you with arms crossed or clearly not going to receive communion give them a blessing – ‘The blessing of God be with you’ making the sign of the cross on their forehead of children under communion age and a raised hand over their head if over communion age or adult. When children approach take a moment to make sure they are communion age - if in doubt look to the parent who will usually indicate to you. Children may receive from the cup, if parents permit – again look to the parent if in doubt.
- When you have completed distributing communion or if your chalice is empty, make your way back to the Altar reverently and place any remaining hosts in the bowl on the Altar. Take your bowl or chalice back to the credence table and consume what you can of any precious blood left over. Don't hesitate to ask others to assist if you need to. Purify bowls, chalices & carafe.
- Wait with the other Communion Ministers whilst the Acolyte places the remaining hosts in the Tabernacle. Genuflect or bow when the Acolyte does.
- Process to the bottom of the steps in front of the Altar, line up and bow and return to your seat.
- At the end of Mass, the Communion Ministers process out with the Celebrant and Servers.
- After each Mass the chalices need to be washed in hot soapy water. This is done with gentle movements as the precious metal is not always that sturdy.

If you are unable to fill your roster, please phone Mrs Betty Burke 6331 2063 and Betty will find a replacement for you.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this Ministry.