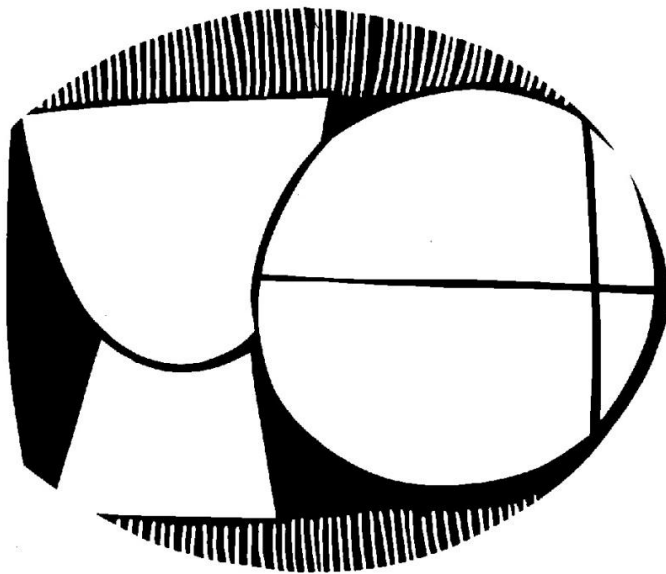


# THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNION

*Sunday Mass Procedures  
for  
extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*



St John the Apostle Parish  
Kippax  
Revised June 2013

## **BEFORE MASS**

- Arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass begins.
- If you are not there 10 minutes before Mass the acolytes will have to organise a substitute.
- If you know ahead of time that you cannot make the Mass please arrange for someone to take your place and advise them that they need to be there 10 minutes early.
- When you arrive please pick up a stole from the table in the foyer. The white stole is for those ministers distributing the host. The red stole is for those ministers distributing the consecrated wine. The stoles are numbered to correspond with the various positions. Please refer to the diagram on the bench in the foyer.
- Please dress appropriately for this sacred ministry.

## **DURING MASS**

- Soon as you have offered the sign of peace move directly to the Altar. There is no need to offer the sign of peace to the other communion ministers.
- When you arrive at the altar first, cleanse hands from dispenser and then move into position.
- After the priest has said, “Behold the Lamb of God...” and the people have responded, “Lord, I am not worthy...” the priest will minister communion to the acolytes, altar servers, and communion ministers who will receive communion on the hand and then wait until the priest has received his communion before consuming the host.
- Make sure you are standing in the right spot to minister communion – the positions are marked clearly on the carpet with thumbtacks.
- Meet the eyes of the person receiving communion and smile but do not use names (this highlights the ones whose name you do not know!) and say simply either ‘The Body of Christ’ or ‘The Blood of Christ’. If you are offering the Body of Christ, and people indicate that they want you to place the host on their tongue, try not to touch their tongue with your hand (this will need practice). If a child (or adult) wants a blessing, hold the host in your hand and touch their forehead with the back of your finger making the sign of the cross saying words such as: ‘May Jesus give you his special blessing and love.’
- If you are offering the Blood of Christ, wipe the lip of the chalice carefully where their lips contacted the chalice. It is important to avoid touching the consecrated wine with the cloth. Rotate the chalice and the cloth (sometimes it picks up lipstick) after each person has received the precious blood.
- If your stole is red and numbered “3” then you will need to offer communion to the choir after ministering to the congregation.
- After you have finished offering communion place the remaining hosts in the ciborium on the altar.
- If you have been ministering the chalice, consume any remaining consecrated wine at your station and then take the empty chalice to the credence table and cover it with the purificator. If there is too much for you to consume then go to the credence table and wait until other communion ministers or acolytes join you and ask them to help consume the leftover wine.
- Leave the chalice on the credence table covered by a purificator. There is no need to purify the chalice, this will be done by the acolytes after Mass.
- After the congregation have all have received communion the priest invites those taking communion to the sick and housebound to come forward and places the required number of hosts into the pyx that they present. This takes place in front of the altar.