

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Sunday mass Procedures
For music ministers*



St John the Apostle Parish
Kippax
November 2012

BEFORE MASS

- Arrive at least half an hour before Mass.
- Set up microphones, music stands etc.
- Although this is not the time for rehearsing or learning new songs, a warm-up is often necessary.
- Finish any warm-up at least five minutes before Mass.
- It is recommended that a short prayer be prayed together before Mass.
- When there is a new song being added to the parish repertoire it is recommended that this be taught to the congregation before Mass.

DURING MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- The **Entrance Song** begins after the assembly has been invited into a short period of silence in preparation for Mass.
- The **Entrance Song** accompanies the procession of ministers. It also serves to unite the congregation and therefore the Entrance Song can continue to be sung after the presider has reached the chair. In order to maintain the integrity of the lyrics it may be necessary to sing all verses.
- The **Penitential Act** begins after the Sign of the Cross and Greeting. There are three options:
 - a. The Confiteor (“I confess...”)
 - b. The short two-fold form....“
Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord.
People: For we have sinned against you.
Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
People: And grant us your salvation.
 - c. The three-fold Kyrie litany with invocations.
 - In the case of the first two forms the threefold Kyrie is sung after the absolution “May almighty God have mercy on us...”
 - In the case of the third form the Kyrie is sung before the absolution and contains “tropes” (variable texts) which might be sung by the cantor with the congregation singing the Kyrie.
- Depending on which of the above forms is used the **Gloria** then begins.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- At the 10am Mass when there is *Children’s Liturgy of the Word* it is appropriate to play or sing a simple chant to accompany the children as they process to their place where they will celebrate the Word.
- After the First Reading there is a short silence. If the **Psalm** is sung then it is the responsibility of the musicians to ensure that a suitable period of silence is observed before beginning the **Psalm**.
- Musicians and Readers need to check with one another if the **Psalm** is to be sung or read.
- After the Second Reading there is a short silence. Again, it is the responsibility of the musicians to ensure that a suitable period of silence is observed before beginning the **Gospel Acclamation**.
- On occasions the response to the petitions of the **General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)** may be sung.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- The **Offertory Song** begins as soon as the Prayers of Intercession are finished and continues up until the presider invites the assembly to pray with the words “Pray my brothers and sisters...” If there are not enough verses then the song may continue to be played as an instrumental accompaniment to the liturgical action.
- It is recommended that the **Preface Dialogue** be sung, at least on occasions requiring heightened solemnity. This is best sung unaccompanied using the official chant in the Missal.
- The **Sanctus (Holy, Holy)** needs to begin without delay as soon as the presider concludes the **Preface**. Although there are over 80 Prefaces in the Roman Missal, they all follow a similar pattern and end with a similar phrases such as: “as without end we acclaim:”... “as with one voice of praise we acclaim:”...“we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:”...“we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:” Musicians need to listen for this cue and begin immediately – there should not be an extended introduction, most musical settings have a short (often just two bars) introduction; a single chord is usually sufficient.
- The **Memorial Acclamation** follows the **Institutional Narrative** (the words of consecration) and is the sung response to the presider’s invitation to “**The Mystery of Faith**”. Again, a single chord or short introduction is sufficient to lead the choir and congregation into singing the Acclamation.
- It is preferable that the **Amen** and the preceding **Doxology** be sung.
- **The Lord’s Prayer** is best said. However, on more solemn occasions it might be sung. The familiar plain chant setting is preferable because of its familiarity and ease of singing. If an alternative setting is used, then it is important that the melody is easily sung by the congregation.
- The **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)** accompanies the ritual action of the breaking of bread (the fraction rite). It is up to the musicians to begin this litany. It should begin after the **Sign of Peace** as the presider begins to break the bread.

- The **Communion Song** begins as soon as the presider drinks from the chalice: “While the priest is receiving the Sacrament, the Communion chant is begun..” GIRM 86
- The **Communion Song** should last as long as practically possible as communion is distributed to the assembly. However, it will need to finish in time for the music ministers to be able to join the end of the communion procession so that they are seen to be part of the congregation.
- “Care should be taken that singers, too, can receive Communion with ease” (GIRM 86). Music ministers go to the nearest communion station to receive Communion. It is important that this is not hurried and that the music ministers have time to prepare themselves spiritually to receive Communion.
- There is an option of either silence or a song of praise after communion:

When the distribution of Communion is finished, as circumstances suggest, the priest and faithful spend some time praying privately. If desired, a Psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may also be sung by the entire congregation. GIRM #88

- An alternative practice would be to have a period of silence and then stand for a Song of Praise which would then lead into the Prayer After Communion and Dismissal.

CONCLUDING RITE

- There is no official chant at the end of Mass. However, it is customary to sing something at the end. Given that the Mass has officially ended with the dismissal, *Ita missa est*, then it is best not to sing too many verses of a song.

AFTER MASS

- Ensure that all equipment is switched off and microphones returned to their place.
- Ensure that music stands are folded and put away.
- Ensure that songbooks are neatly stored in their proper place.