

Liturgy Preparation Sheet

for the Celebration of Holy Communion for the First Time outside
Sunday Mass

It is envisaged that this planning sheet be completed at a meeting attended by representatives of the home, school and parish communities. Some suggestions are given for hymns, but these are by no means exhaustive. Please feel absolutely free to use alternatives which are suitable, making sure that the whole congregation is facilitated with the words to sing.

PRELIMINARY NOTES

Date: _____

Time: _____

Mass Setting: _____

The setting suggested here will provide music to sing the Gospel Acclamation, the Holy Holy (Sanctus), the Mystery of Faith, the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) and the Great Amen.

Preparing the church building

Parish communities like to work with both teachers and families to make the church welcoming and friendly for children, and to honour the special occasion that is being celebrated. There are a few points to bear in mind where this is the case:

- Flowers serve to honour our encounter with God. It is acceptable to place flowers around the sanctuary area but not on the altar itself. Flowers can also be placed in the entrance hall/porch to express welcome and festivity. It is not appropriate to place flowers, candles or other objects around the tabernacle during the Mass.
- There is no requirement for the children to prepare artwork for the church. In some cases, this can distract from the Mass itself. It may be appropriate, however, to display the children's artwork in the entrance hall/porch of the church.

Notes regarding the distribution of Holy Communion

- It is desirable that the congregation receive Holy Communion from hosts consecrated at that Mass, rather than from hosts that have been reserved in the tabernacle.
- It is also desirable that Holy Communion be available from the chalice at this and all celebrations of the Mass.
- Parents/guardians of children who suffer from a coeliac condition should be made aware that 'gluten free' and 'low gluten' hosts *do* contain traces of gluten. In cases where even a minimum gluten content will be problematic, parents/guardians may wish their child to receive Holy Communion from the chalice *only*.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn/Song: _____

An Entrance Procession may be arranged. Items carried in the procession might include a workbook/textbook, or symbols that give expression to the children's life together at home or in school. Other items that could be included are: thumble and incense; cross; processional candles; lectionary.

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*

- 'Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks' composed by Donald Fishel (First Class/P3 Teacher's Manual, p.207)
- 'Gathering Song' composed by Bernard Sexton (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.88)
- 'This is the Day' composed by Mary Amond O' Brien (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.212)

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Penitential Act:

Choose from one of the following:

- Say the *Confiteor* ('I confess to almighty God...')
- Sing or say the *Kyrie* ('Lord, have mercy ...') (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.320) following the invocations led by the priest.

When the celebration of Holy Communion for the first time takes place outside Sunday Mass, the singing or recitation of the Gloria may be omitted, unless it is called for by the liturgy of the day.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

*When the celebration of Holy Communion for the first time takes place outside Sunday Mass, some or all of the scripture readings may be taken from the Mass of the day, the Mass of Christian Initiation (Lectionary III pp 18 and following), or the Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist (Lectionary III pp 768-793). You may also like to use readings that the children will be familiar with from the *Grow in Love* series. Reference for these are given below. A full selection of readings is given as an appendix to this document. With the exception of those with a hearing impairment, the congregation does not need a copy of the words of the readings.*

First Reading

Text: _____

Suggestions from *Grow in Love* are:

- 1 John 4: 7,11,12 ('Let us love one another')
- 1 Cor 11:23-26 (The Last Supper')

The first and second readings should be proclaimed from the Lectionary or from the Bible. The person who proclaims the Word of God at Mass is called 'Minister of the Word'. This person has been trained and commissioned for this work in the church. The Word of God is not merely 'read' at Mass, it is proclaimed. For this reason, the most appropriate person to do this work is a trained Minister of the Word. This is true, too, for the celebration of Mass when First Holy Communion takes place.

Proclaimed by: _____

Responsorial Psalm

Led by: _____

Suggestion from *Grow in Love*:

- 'The Lord, He is My Shepherd' (Psalm 23) (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p. 139)

The psalm should be sung. It is led by the psalmist, a cantor or the choir. The congregation and all the ministers should be facilitated to take up their part and sing the response each time.

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel acclamation should be sung. The congregation and all the ministers repeat the acclamation after the cantor or choir. The cantor or the choir alone sings the verse. The congregation and all the ministers repeat the acclamation after the verse has been sung.

Verse sung by: _____

Gospel

Proclaimed by: _____ (priest/deacon)

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- Luke 10:38-42 (Mary and Martha)
- John 13:3-5, 14-17 (The washing of feet)
- Matthew 26:26-28 (The Last Supper)
- John 6:1-13 (The loaves and fishes)

Prayer of the Faithful

The intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful are given by the deacon. In the absence of a deacon, the intentions are presented by other representatives of the community that has gathered – the parish, the parents, school staff and children. Ideally, however, one person only gives these intentions, so that the focus of the whole gathering is on the prayer, and not who is giving it. When one of the children participating in Holy Communion for the first time gives an intention, it would be meaningful to have the text composed by the children themselves.

SAMPLE INTENTIONS

Introduction by the priest

1. We pray for our families;
(*pause to pray*)
that they see God's blessings in their lives,
and that God keeps them safe.
Lord hear us.
2. We pray for our priest(s) and our teacher(s)
(*pause to pray*)
that God will continue to bless their good work.
Lord hear us.
3. We pray for each child receiving First Holy
Communion today;
(*pause to pray*)
that we grow more in love for God
and in love for all God's people.
Lord hear us.
4. We pray for those who have little food and who
often go hungry.
(*pause to pray*)
that we share with them from what we have.
Lord hear us.

5. We pray for the earth;
(*pause to pray*)
that we always look after and care for it.
Lord hear us.

Conclusion by the Priest

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation and Presentation of the Gifts: The only gifts that should be brought forward at this time are bread and wine and any money or gifts that have been offered by those gathered.

Offertory Hymn

- Instrumental Music or suggestion from *Grow in Love*:
'We Come to You, Lord Jesus' (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.186)

The following Mass parts are sung by the congregation and all the ministers:

- 'Sanctus' (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.321)
- 'Mystery of Faith' (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.322)
- 'Great Amen' (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.323)
- 'Lamb of God' (Agnus Dei) (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.324) (may be sung by the choir alone)

A child may lead the children's Prayer before Communion (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.326)

Communion Hymn/Song: _____

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- 'The Last Supper' (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.190)
- 'Eat this Bread' (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.191)

A child may lead the Children's private Prayer after Communion (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.326)

CONCLUDING RITE

Concluding Hymn/Song: _____

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- 'This is the Day' by Mary Amond O'Brien (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.212)
- 'This Little Light of Mine' – Traditional American (First Class/P2 Teacher's Manual, p.290)
- 'Gifts from God' by Bernard Sexton (First Class/P3 Teacher's Manual, p.252)