

For many years now, a number of the Catholic communities in the diocese have been celebrating Lay Led Assemblies on Sundays, when there has been no priest available to preside. Derrinallum and Lismore Mass Centres have recently moved to regular Sunday Assembly of Word and Communion.

To "prepare the way" Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar General, asked input from the Leaders Group of St Joseph's Parish, Timboon. Three of us shared our experiences, honed during a decade of leading our Assemblies.

We read our Assembly resources, which comes to us from the Pastoral Ministry Office every ten weeks or so or according to the season. It became a mini workshop as Fr Justin offered formation and suggestions to issues that occasionally arise. A person does not have to do anything that is stressful but with some support and education, this may be overcome. If finding a suitable gospel reflection to read is still wanted at the eleventh hour there is always Desperate Preacher!

The leader's role and Sunday Assembly of Word and Communion format enables local communities to gather and worship in their own church in the absence of a celebrant for Sunday Mass.

*Annette, Pat and Ruth - St Joseph's Parish, Timboon*



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