

SUNDAY ASSEMBLY OF WORD AND COMMUNION

RESTRICTIONS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP DURING COVID-19

- Checking-in is no longer required.
- Face masks are no longer required in indoor settings. They are strongly recommend if people have any COVID-19 symptoms and/or are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Communal equipment should not be shared by attendees.
- Holy water fonts are to be emptied or removed.
- At the Sign of Peace, the practice of shaking hands is not recommended. During this time the congregation will be asked to pray for peace or show some other sign of peace.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will be in the hand only and not on the tongue. There will be no distribution of the chalice.
- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to use hand sanitiser before the distribution of Holy Communion commences and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing.

Updates are available from <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-religion-https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live>

AUSTRALIA DAY – YEAR A 2023

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GATHERING

Stand

A hymn expressing the unity of the community and is a song of praise is sung as the first act of worship of the Assembly.

The Leaders move to the front as the hymn is ending.

GREETING

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader 1: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Leader addresses the people.

Leader 1: Blessed be God of the universe,
for this land,
for its contrasts of landscape and climate,
for its abundance of wealth and opportunity.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Leader 1: Blessed be God for our history,
with all its struggle in adversity,
its courage and hope.
Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

WELCOME

Leader 2: Today, we, the people of God,
gather again to hear and respond to God's word,
to return praise and thanks,
and to share in Communion.

We gather today to give thanks for the many blessings given to us by God in our homeland, Australia.

We offer our prayer in union with the Church throughout the world, with Francis our Pope, Paul Bird, our Bishop, and all who mark this day with prayer and worship.

OPENING RITE

Choose either the following Penitential Rite or the Gloria for the Opening Rite.

Penitential Rite

Leader 1: Before listening to the Word of God,
let us ask for Christ's mercy.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Leader 1: Lord Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader 1: You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader 1: You plead for us at the right hand of the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

OR

Gloria

Leader 1: With people everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful praise:
Glory to God in the highest,

All: and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader 2: Let us pray.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God,
that as the Cross shines in our southern skies,
so may Christ bring light to our nation,
to its peoples old and new,
and by saving grace, transform our lives.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

***The Readings and the Responsorial Psalm are particular readings for Australia Day
and can be found in the third volume of the Lectionary –
Lectionary III for Ritual Masses and Masses for Various Needs and Occasions.
To find the readings and psalm, just check the Index of Readings at the back of the book.***

FIRST READING: Isaiah 32: 15- 18

Sit

A period of silence, about one or two minutes, is recommended at the conclusion of each reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 84: 9-14

Response: The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

SECOND READING: Romans 12: 9-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Stand

All: Alleluia, Alleluia! Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 1-12

One of the Leaders goes to the lectern.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

The Leader makes the sign of the cross on the book, then on forehead, lips and breast.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SHARED REFLECTION

Sit

- *A shared reflection explaining the meaning which these readings had for their original hearers, and indicating how these readings apply to this particular community, should now be given.*
- *The shared reflection may be led by one of the Leaders or another person from the Assembly.*
- *The reflection must be prepared beforehand and should be a sharing of what the scripture is saying to us today, rather than a 'sermon type' presentation.*
- *The reflection should only be of 3-5 minutes duration.*

** If this is not done, the following should be said:*

Leader: Let us now reflect in silence on the words of the Gospel and take them to our hearts.

A brief time of reflective silence should be allowed before the Profession of Faith.

PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Stand

Leader 1: Sisters and brothers, let us now stand and reaffirm our faith, the faith of the Church:

Allow time for the assembly to stand and then say:

All: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, *(all bow)*
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The people are invited to pray; after the Prayers of the Faithful, the concluding prayer is said.

*It is desirable that the individual prayers be given by someone **other** than the leader.*

Invitation to Prayer:

Leader 2: Happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
On Australia day we give thanks for our country,
its people and its beauty. We ask God’s blessing on Australia.

Prayers of the Faithful as prepared by the community. It is recommended that a petition for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life be included in the prayers.

Leader: For a spirit of thanksgiving (pause).
Australia is the Land of the Holy Spirit.
May we be a people who are thankful for the gifts of the Spirit,
for the bounty of the land, for the many cultures and people.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For a spirit of tolerance (pause).
Australia is gifted in the variety of its people.
May we respect all the people of Australia
with a special concern for the first inhabitants of our land;
and may we rejoice in the variety of gifts God has given to our land.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For a spirit of justice and peace (pause).
Australia is a land blessed by God.
May we show our gratefulness to God
by our resolve to live by the Gospel,
concerned for justice in our country,
especially towards those whom society rejects.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For a spirit of being content with what God gives (pause).
Jesus declares happy those who are poor in spirit.
May we be thankful for God's gifts,
content with what we have
and at peace with God and our land.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses,
teaching fraternity rather than competition
and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that the Synod of Bishops journey
encourages people to speak with courage
integrating freedom, truth and love.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: God of all creation, we praise you and thank you for our country.
May we all live in peace, respecting one another in mutual love.
We ask this through Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Leader 2: Let us now praise God who is the source of our faith.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of all ages;
from eternity you have called us to be your people,
to sing your praise at all times.
Bless us in our work and prayer,
and grant that our lives may give you glory
through our words, our witness, and our worship.

All: We give you praise, Father,
through Jesus Christ our brother and our Lord,
in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
God for endless ages,
how great is your name.

Leader 1: All praise leads to you, Father in heaven,
for leading us from the darkness of sin
into the light of your kingdom.
We bless you for sending your Son to save us,
to die for us that we might die to sin,
to be raised that we may share your life.
We thank you for giving us your spirit of love
to live in our hearts and lead us to you.

All: All glory, praise and honour be yours,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for endless ages.
To you, we voice our praise and say,
how great is your name, O God.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of all that is,
and Father of your chosen people:
We praise and thank you for your love.
Bring us to continue to praise you
by our lives and by our worship.
Send the Spirit of your Son into the hearts of all people,
and lead them to eternal joy with you.

All: Gracious God, we ask this grace
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our brother,
in the love of the Holy Spirit,
as we voice our praise and say,
how great is your name, O God.

COMMUNION RITE

The Rite of Communion begins with the Lord's Prayer.

Leader 1: Taught by our Saviour's command,
and formed by the Word of God, we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Leader 1: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader 1: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader 1: In the name of Christ, let us pray for peace.

If Communion is to be given, at the conclusion of the Prayer for Peace, the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion moves to the table and washes his/her hands. He/she then goes to the tabernacle, opens it and removes the ciborium with hosts, leaves the lid at the tabernacle and moves to stand behind the Leaders.

ADMONITION TO UNITY

Kneel

Leader 2: We are now invited to share in Holy Communion
in the body of the Lord.
We are part of the universal Church,
and all across the world
Christ's saving passover to the Father
continues to be recalled and made present.

We are in union with the whole Church.
We are in union with our Bishop, Paul Bird
and our parish community.
Let us be one in mind and heart,
in prayer and service, now and always.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings the Eucharist to the front of the Sanctuary,
and, taking the host, raises it for all to see, saying aloud:*

Extraordinary Minister:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

*The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion holds the host in the view of each person and
says:*

The Body of Christ.

The communicant answers:

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

PERIOD OF SILENCE or COMMUNION REFLECTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Stand

*This prayer should be led by the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion as a conclusion to the
Reception of Communion.*

Extraordinary Minister:

Let us pray.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

May our partaking of this sacrificial meal, O Lord,
grant us strength to walk together in the ways of justice,
and behold one day the new heavens and new earth
you prepare for us in Christ your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

All: We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance
lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

If there are announcements of note, this is the proper time for them to be made. Those who wish to make an announcement should be invited to come forward at this point and make the announcements. People should then be invited to stand if they have been seated for announcements.

GREETING

Leader 1: Let us ask for God's blessing.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Leader 1: May God who formed our southern land be for us all a rock of strength.

All: Amen.

Leader 1: May God who rules our southern seas keep us safe in every storm.

All: Amen.

Leader 1: May God who made our southern skies turn our darkness into light.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader 2: May almighty God bless us all,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader 2: Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Leaders bow to the altar and return to their places in the Assembly.

FINAL HYMN

It is appropriate that Advance Australia Fair be sung at the conclusion of the celebration.

Acknowledgements

Material for the Introductory Rites, Opening and Communion Prayers, Profession of Faith and the Praise Prayer have been taken from or adapted from Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours, Catholic Conference of Canadian Bishops © Concacan Inc., 1995 and LiturgyHelp www.liturgyhelp.com. All rights reserved. This material is used with permission for the purposes of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia only.

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