

## RITE FOR COMMUNION OF THE SICK

*To enable the rite to be an extension of the Mass, it is fitting to use the prayers that are in the Mass Sheet.*

*Make the Sign of the Cross saying:* In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit **Amen**

The Lord be with you **And with your spirit**

To prepare ourselves to celebrate, let us call to mind our sins.

*Use the Penitential Act that is on the Mass Sheet and then conclude with:*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

*The Gospel should be read, or if preferred one of the readings or the psalm.*

*If a briefer reading is required, the following could be used:*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*Introduce some bidding prayers pausing after each one, for example*

Let us pray for The Church and the Pope

Our Parish, especially Father Oliver, those who are sick or bereaved and those who have recently died or whose anniversaries occur at this time

Our families and all those who help us in our daily lives

*Add any special intentions from Mass, pause to allow silent prayer, then:*

We ask Mary, our mother, to join her prayers with ours as we say, **Hail Mary ...**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father ...**

*Hold up the host and say:* Behold the lamb of God ...

**Lord, I am not worthy ...**

*Show the sick person the sacrament saying:* The Body of Christ **Amen**

*After a period of silence read the Prayer after Communion starting with, Let us pray*

*Finish with the blessing from the Mass Sheet and the sign of the cross*

This document and others in the series can be found on our website: <http://stmaryandstpaul.org.uk/> These have been produced based on a series of resources prepared by the **Westminster LITURGY Commission** who kindly agreed to its use to support the continuing formation of liturgical ministers in the parishes of St Mary and St Paul.

The originals and other resources can be found on their website: <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/liturgy/>

# MINISTERING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

*An introduction for commissioned ministers of Holy  
Communion in the parishes of St Mary's, Dukinfield  
and St Paul's, Hyde*



## INTRODUCTION

One of the most important recent developments in the Church's ministry to the sick has been the introduction of lay liturgical ministers. These ministers have enabled the sick and housebound to receive Holy Communion more frequently. By their commitment and generosity they have supplemented and complemented the ministry of the Church's priests.

## VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

The minister can offer support to the sick and housebound in a number of ways. This includes being:

- a link to the parish community
- a link to the parish priest
- someone who will pray with them and for them
- someone they can share their worries and concerns with

To achieve this, when you visit, take with you:

- the latest newsletter
- a copy of the Mass sheet
- anything that is being distributed after Mass, such as the Catholic Voice, or special collection envelopes

And be prepared to:

- share any announcements or news that you heard at Mass
- bring back any requests or news to the Parish Priest
- spend time talking and listening, as well as praying

Ministers should always respect the privacy and right to confidentiality of those to whom they minister. Do not pass on any confidential information without explicit permission to do so.

## COMMUNION OF THE SICK

A version of the rite for Communion of the Sick is provided on the back of this leaflet. In addition, consider the following:

- If someone needs to receive Communion at home, it will be agreed by Father Oliver who will normally visit them before a minister of Communion is asked to visit. Still, if it is the first time you have visited

someone, take a few minutes to explain the prayers you will say and the responses they should give, if they are able.

- Sometimes the person being ministered to is well able to take an active part in the rite. At other times the person will be less able. The minister should judge whether the rite should be adapted. However very often, the sick person will derive benefit from hearing the liturgy prayed, even if they are themselves unable to make responses or in any other obvious way participate in the prayer.
- If there are family or friends with them, ask them to stay and join in the prayers, ask if anyone present would like to proclaim the Word of God.
- Those who are Catholic, and wish, may receive Communion, even if they have already received Communion at Mass. Although this may require breaking the Host, unless it has been anticipated, and therefore may not be feasible if there are several people present.
- It is nice to spend time talking, as well as spending time in shared silence and in prayer. Always complete the rite and minister Communion before 'having a chat'

## DISMISSAL OF COMMISSIONED MINISTERS TAKING COMMUNION TO THE HOUSEBOUND OR SICK

- Holy Communion should be taken directly from Mass to the sick or those unable to leave their homes. Although you may need to take family members home before starting your visits, you shouldn't do anything else.
- Before Mass, put your pyx on the altar with a note indicating how many Hosts you require. If it is a visiting priest, he may prefer that the required number of altar breads is placed in the pyx before Mass. Be careful to ensure the pyx is on the corporal before the start of the Eucharistic Prayer.
- Normally the pyx will be left on the altar for you to collect at the end of Mass. Go and collect it only when you are ready to leave and take a minute to check that the pyx contains the correct number of Hosts.
- If for some reason you are given the pyx by the priest before the end of Mass, he will speak some words of dismissal when he gives you the pyx, such as 'Peace be with you.' Your response to this should be 'Amen'.