



Eucharistic Celebration

Guidelines for Schools in the Diocese of Meath

The following points are not meant to be viewed as prescriptive but rather to provide some guidance for the celebration of the Eucharist with students.

- A group should be established to consider and plan the celebration. This should include, but not be limited to, the school chaplain, catechists and students as well as involving, where one is appointed, the priest chaplain or local priest.
- The location for the celebration is an important point and should, as a preference, take place within the school if there is a suitable venue. This ensures that the celebration is associated with the school community from which the students come rather than the local parish church from which only some students may come.
- At Graduation, as this is a celebration of Eucharist, marking an important moment in the lives of so many young people, it is important that preparation is undertaken with the student body prior to the celebration and that certain parameters are agreed upon for behaviour and involvement.
- It is important to arrange the layout of the celebration in such a way as to allow room for movement and yet create a closeness to draw people into active participation of the celebration.
- To acknowledge the communities which have come together to create this school community it is appropriate to invite clergy/representatives from all the students parishes to come and mark their transition from school to the adult world.
- The main celebrant for any school celebration should be, wherever possible, a priest with some direct link to the school community. Where this is not possible then the priest must be in good standing with the Bishop of the Diocese and in possession of a current celtibet.
- If the celebration of the Eucharist is part of a broader ceremony a clear distinction must be made between it and the secular ceremony.
- It is important where the celebration of the Eucharist is at a moment of significance in the life of a student that parents/guardians and wider family members become an integral part of the celebration. ie at Graduation or a time of bereavement or a particular feast day associated with the school.
- The text/music and format of the school celebration needs to be agreed at an early stage with the principal celebrant, especially those parts of the Mass that are to be sung. These should be drawn from the official texts and resources provided by the Church.
- Celebrating the Eucharist with young people may be friendly and personal but never casual, informal but never careless. The symbols of the liturgy and the holy way they are handled must open up for the group the sense of the sacred. In this regard it is essential that those involved in the liturgy have practiced their part/reading to ensure that the liturgy evokes a sense of wonder and awe.



Planning Sheet for Eucharistic Celebrations

Date: _____ Occasion/Feast: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ Presider: _____

Altar Server(s) _____

Greeting By: _____

I Introductory Rites

Gathering Song: _____

Greeting & Opening Prayer: _____

Penitential Rite: _____

Gloria: _____ Omitted Spoken Sung

II Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____ By _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____ Sung

Response: _____

Second Reading (optional): _____ By _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____ Sung

Gospel: _____

Homily: _____

Creed (May be omitted)

Prayer of the Faithful By: _____

Response: _____

III Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts Song:

Gifts Presented By: _____

Preface Holy Holy: _____ Sung 🎵

Memorial Acclamation: _____ Sung 🎵

Doxology: _____ Sung 🎵

Great Amen: _____ Sung 🎵

Lord's Prayer Sign of Peace/Lamb of God: _____ Sung 🎵

Extraordinary Minister(s) of the Eucharist: _____

Post Communion Reflection (Optional) By:

IV Concluding Rite

Blessing and Dismissal _____

Concluding Song _____