

PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

NOTE TO SACRISTANS

Can you please make sure that a corporal is placed unfolded in front of the tabernacle door in case the tabernacle has to be used?

MINISTRY DURING MASS

THESE INSTRUCTIONS SET OUT THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES. THEY WILL NOT COVER EVERY EVENTUALITY IN EACH OF THE FOUR WOOLHAMPTON PARISHES. PLEASE USE YOUR DISCRETION AND COMMON SENSE IF NEEDED.

1. At the end of the first 'Lamb of God' (Agnus Dei) the Eucharistic minister(s) come up to the altar steps, genuflects and then stand(s) at the end of the altar farthest from the lectern.
2. If requested by the celebrant, when a deacon is not present, one of the Eucharistic ministers' goes to the tabernacle and brings the ciborium to the altar.
3. After his own communion, unless a deacon is ministering, the celebrant will give the host and chalice to the Eucharistic minister(s). If a deacon is present the deacon will receive the host and chalice first and will then administer the chalice to the Eucharistic minister(s).
4. When a Eucharistic minister who is administering a chalice, receives the chalice, take the chalice in the left hand and the purificator in the right hand before consuming from the chalice.
5. After consuming from the chalice wipe the edge with a purificator in the usual way and move yourself to a position about two metres either to the right or left of the celebrant or minister distributing the host (or whatever is more practical) to allow for easy circulation.
6. If necessary one of the Eucharistic ministers administering the chalice follows the celebrant and offers the chalice to anyone who is prevented from approaching the altar steps in the usual way, after they have received the host.
7. When distributing the chalice, after wiping the rim with a purificator, turn the chalice clockwise a few degrees so that the next person drinks from a different part of the chalice. N.B. After a while the chalice will come back to the where it was started but this practice helps reduce the risk of contamination).
8. After the distribution of communion the Eucharistic minister(s) place(s) the sacred vessels on the credence table. If necessary the ciborium is placed back in the tabernacle by the celebrant while the Eucharistic ministers purify the sacred vessels. If a deacon is present the purification of the sacred vessels is performed by the deacon.
9. If a deacon is not present the purification is performed by the Eucharistic ministers at the credence table. The minister(s) administering the hosts cleans the paten or

ciborium using the finger to brush off any particles into one of the chalices. After this a little water is poured into the paten or ciborium, swilled around and then tipped into one of the chalices.

10. The minister(s) administering the chalice consume(s) any surplus in the chalice. If there is too much consecrated wine for one person to consume the Eucharistic minister asks the second Eucharistic minister or the celebrant to help.
11. The Eucharistic minister purifies the chalice using water from the cruet and/or the water tipped in from the paten or ciborium. After swilling the water around the water is then consumed. The chalice is thoroughly wiped and dried with the purificator. The used purificator is then refolded and placed inside the chalice.
12. The Eucharistic ministers then retire to their seats bowing to the centre of the altar as they go.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

1. Before mass please place your pyx, together with its pouch or bag, on the corporal of the altar with the required number of hosts placed inside it.
2. Please leave a card (5"x3" size – some in the sacristy) or a small piece of paper with the pyx to say who you are taking Holy Communion to.
3. After the purification of the sacred vessels the celebrant will invite the Eucharistic minister(s) to come forward and take the pyx. He will use the following formula, "Take the Body of Christ, the Risen Lord, healer of the sick, comforter of the dying, support to the lonely to nn. with the prayers and blessing of the parish community of nn. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
4. If possible please try and take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick person(s) directly after mass.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING

A training session, at a mutually agreeable time and date, for those Eucharistic ministers not familiar with the process of purification will be held soon.

PLEASE REMEMBER

All Eucharistic ministers will be re-commissioned annually at the Mass on the Lord's Supper on Mauday Thursday evening. Please make an effort to be there. The date for next year is Thursday 21st April 2011.

Every Eucharistic minister is required to attend a Eucharistic Day of Recollection on an annual basis. These are available at the Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme, Park Place Pastoral Centre and other places. If sufficient numbers are interested there

could be a possibility of organising this special day for the whole parish either at one of our own parish halls or some other appropriate location.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SACRED VESSELS

Monthly the sacristan should wash the chalices, patens and ciboria in warm soapy water and then rinse them with plain warm water, drying thoroughly with a clean tea towel. If required they can be buffed up with a chamois leather cloth. Use proprietary silver polishes sparingly and then only on the outside. Eucharistic ministers should do the same to their pyxes.