

Youth,



liturgy

&



music

A pastoral response to preparing a meaningful Mass or prayer service for young people, with appropriate musical selection

Why this resource?

There are some parishes in Broken Bay who are fantastic at bringing together youth, music and liturgy.

There are some parishes who are still struggling.

This resource is for the “super” to the “struggler” and everyone in between who would like to make good and informed choices about music for liturgies and prayer services with young people.

We hope it helps,
CYM, Liturgy office and the team

Function of Music

Music must serve and never dominate the liturgy (Music in Catholic Worship, 1991) It brings out the liturgical texts making them more effective and it unifies the assembly.

Role of Music Minister

You are not merely a volunteer or an employee. You are someone who shares faith, serves the community and expresses love of God and neighbour through music. You are first a disciple and then a minister. Your role is to encourage the assembly to actively participate. (From Liturgical Music Today, 1982) Musicians are there to lead the people and to encourage them to sing, not to perform for them.

Stage 1 **NO Youth Mass**

The Parish has no specific measures in place to make young people welcome when worshipping with the community. Perhaps one or two persistent young people are involved in reading. Young people are generally on the fringes of the church, or outside

Stage 2 **A Youth Mass**

The parish makes an effort to involve many young people in the Mass, in the music ministry, readings, offertory, special ministers of the Eucharist. The Mass is recognised as the “Youth Mass”, and people of all ages attend.

Stage 3 **NO Youth Mass**

Everyone in the community is involved in preparing and participating in meaningful liturgies, regardless of age. Young people are automatically consulted and included as part of the community in all areas, there is no need to specify that a celebration is for “youth”

Definitions

Liturgy

Liturgy (for example, the Mass) refers to the official texts and ritual of the church.

Liturgy is public prayer, open to all, and celebrated throughout the world by the universal church.

Choosing music for a Liturgy (e.g. Mass) is a creative challenge that seeks to respect both the integrity of the liturgy and the pastoral needs of the assembly.

Prayer Services

Prayer Services often include liturgical elements such as scripture, prayers, intercessions, and song

Prayer Services usually meet the need of a particular group or special occasion.

There is greater scope and freedom in choosing the readings, prayers and music for Prayer Services.

M

Hit the Right Key !

The capital letter M (for Mass) shows us how a Eucharistic celebration flows in format and importance. Think of mountains and valleys, we need the low bits so as the important high points will stand out, otherwise it is a rather flat service!

Don't Assume Anything!

Have you ever been a visitor at a liturgy or prayer service and been stumped when everyone starts singing a song that everyone around you seems to know and you have never heard before? Have you ever been in a youth meeting where the groovy guy with the guitar starts “we all know this one”, and you can mumble along with the verses and belt out the chorus?

Even if you think 99% of your congregation know a song or prayer, have the words ready as an overhead, power point or song sheet so no-one will feel left out of the community that you are creating!



The Importance of Singing during the Mass

Key

Most important to
 Least important
 Think more than twice before singing this bit!
 No

	Ritual Element	Comments
Introductory Rites	Gathering Song	Helps community become one in heart and voice
	Penitential Rite (Lord, have mercy)	A litany. Cantor and assembly.
	Glory to God	This is a hymn and should be sung
	Opening Prayer	
Liturgy of the Word	First Reading	
	Psalm	Should be sung, cantor sings verses, assembly sings refrain
	[Second Reading]	
	Gospel Acclamation	Important that all the community is led in song.
	The Gospel	
	Homily	Hmmm a sung homily? Not really appropriate!
	Profession of Faith (The Creed)	Occasionally can be sung, but not necessary
Prayer of the Faithful (Intercessions)	Occasionally refrain can be sung as in a litany form	
Liturgy of the Eucharist	<i>The Preparation of the Gifts:</i>	
	'Offertory Song'	A reflective time, consider instrumental, or solo singing here
	<i>Eucharistic Prayer:</i>	
	Holy, Holy	An acclamation. Important that all the community is led in song
	Memorial Acclamation	An acclamation. E.g., Christ has died...
	Great Amen	Community's assent to the Eucharistic Prayer. A strong acclamation.
	<i>Communion rite:</i>	
	Our Father	Better said. This is a prayer, not a song.
	Lamb of God	Litany form. Accompanies the breaking of the bread
	Communion Song	This song should express unity rather than adoration
Thanksgiving Song (after Communion)	A reflective time, this is an appropriate time for solo or group singing	
Concluding Rites	Blessing and Dismissal	Not essential, but good to sing something as we go forth on mission
	Exit Procession	



Choosing Appropriate Music

“Individual preference is not of itself, a sufficient principle for the choice of music in the liturgy” (From *Liturgical Music Today*, 1982)

There are some guidelines for choosing music for a particular occasion. Just because someone likes a particular song or the band plays a song well should not be the reason why the song is chosen. Planning involves the musicians, the presider and the assembly. There are three judgements that will help you to choose the most appropriate music (from *Music in Catholic Worship*, 1991)

- The Liturgical Judgement:** Do the words, the form and the style of the song reflect who we are as the people of God and suit the relative festivity of the liturgical day and season? Is it a Feast Day or is it Lent or Advent or Ordinary Time? Are there images or ideas in the readings that could help you choose the songs thereby making the readings more meaningful? What parts of the mass should be sung and what parts omitted or spoken?
- The Musical Judgement:** Is the music technically, aesthetically and artistically good- irrespective of the style of music? Can the musicians and the singers do justice to this song? (Also, even if a song is played well, not all good music is suited to liturgy!)
- The Pastoral Judgement:** Will it help the assembly pray? Will people be able to join in the singing or is the melody line too high or too hard to sing? Does the music suit their age –level and cultural background and enable them to express their faith?

It is imperative that we aim for excellence in our music ministry.

Music Languages & Styles

If you follow the three principles above then no style of music is off limits! Try to step out of your comfort zone and try to embrace styles that you might have written off – you might be surprised at how well they are received. For example, in the same liturgical celebration you might sing a song accompanied by organ, piano, guitar or other instruments. You might just have an instrumental for the Procession of Gifts or you might have a song unaccompanied. If you are a folk or contemporary band- try doing some Taize pieces, or Latin and Gregorian chants (remember they hit the Top 40 Charts a few years back!) The Catholic Church has a rich and diverse heritage of sacred music. You might surprise yourself and the assembly who has known you to do only one particular style.

For acclamations in the eucharistic prayer, it is suggested that one musical setting be used.

Just as people can be uplifted by good music, they can be turned off by poor music

On the web

www.brokenbay.catholic.org.au/youth



Title & Composer	Liturgical Purposes	Pastoral Qualities	Musical Qualities	Available
"Lord the Light of your Love" (also known as "Shine Jesus Shine") by Graham Kendrick	Jesus the light in the darkness; good recessional (sending forth); ideal Easter/Pentecost song	Ideal commissioning song; popular with all ages, esp youth; change "I" to "we" in V2 to focus on community/ unity. Well known by many young people.	Catchy tune (although singing range of verse rather low) - sense of urgency; builds into rousing refrain; appealing, contemporary pop sound; lends itself to percussion & clapping	As One Voice Vol 2 (no 59).

Check out the Catholic Youth Ministry Website for more guides on choosing songs, outlined with their liturgical, pastoral and musical qualities. Links to other Music websites and lyrics.

Suggestions to improve music in your community

1. Sign up for a liturgical music workshop.
2. Singers and musicians: Work on your craft/ get some individual tuition.
3. Consider enrolling in the Music unit of the Certificate in Pastoral Liturgy at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.
4. Join the Music Liturgy team of your parish (if there is one- if not, why not create one?)
5. Share resources and ideas with other music groups in your parish, or parishes close by.

We have all experience liturgies which went well and some which went badly. That is life!

But be encouraged by the words of St Augustine "Do not allow yourselves to be offended by the imperfect while you strive for the perfect"

In other words don't worry when there have been mistakes

Keep striving to improve!

Watch your language!

It is important these days to be aware of gender inclusive language in music, and also the theology behind parts of the Catholic Mass where music is used. Most Catholic lyricists are aware of this issue and many recent editions of songs have been changed.

Before you change lyrics for use in a public setting, check with the publisher first!

Catholic Song Books

Spirit and Song
As One Voice (Volume 1 and 2)

Gather Australia

Other Christian Song Books

There are some fantastic songs in these collections, however, as with all music, it is a good idea to check the lyrics for use in a Mass.

Praise & Worship Music Vol.C (Nolene Prince)

You are my world- Hillsong Music Australia

People just like us- Hillsong Music Australia

Turn songbook- Paul Coleman Trio

Serious Fun Song Book -Paul Coleman Trio

Planning

Let Liturgy Live- a liturgy planning tool

Catholic Youth Ministry, Melbourne

The Liturgy Documents (Vol 1) Liturgy Training Publications

Background Reading

Music in Catholic Worship- Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Preparing to Celebrate with Youth by Marilyn Sweet (published by Novalis, Ottawa, 1997)

Resource list is expanded on the CYM website



PLEASE

Be aware of copyright issues when using other people's songs.

Check your parish's copyright licence and keep track of what you play.

You need two original copies of any sheet music to legally photocopy it for your group.

Word of Life and CCLI offer copyright licences

[Word of Life International](http://www.freelink.com.au)
<http://www.freelink.com.au>

Tel: 03 5664 9245

[CCLI](http://www.ccli.com)

<http://www.ccli.com>

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