
Music Ministry Projects 2019

The committee recognises the invaluable help provided by Malcolm Bocking in working to improve the music space for musicians in conjunction with the pew restoration project, as well as remodelling of the music storage room.

Projects & Items Completed

1. Liturgical:

- 1.a. Introduced Mass for Moderns (MfM) for Lent 2019 and Advent.
- 1.b. Easter Triduum ceremonies.
- 1.c. Advent wreath ceremony.

2. Equipment Resources:

- 2.a. Accompaniment and Choral versions of MfM purchased and distributed.
- 2.b. New music stands.
- 2.c. Extra cable reels purchased.
- 2.d. Organ repaired (and discussion of requirements for possible new instrument.)

3. Space Resources:

- 3.a. Examination of music space based on “Fit For Sacred Use” produced by the National Liturgical Art and Architecture Council under the guidance of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ conference.
Development of music space to be guided by principles of this document.
- 3.b. Moving of piano in relation to new space created by pew restoration project.
- 3.c. Music storage room reorganised for efficiency. Holder for music stands installed. Lockers for music installed.

4. Training Resources:

- 4.a. Presentation on the importance of the liturgical seasons given. In conjunction with...
- 4.b. Learning meeting for Mass for Moderns.
- 4.c. Designed music ministers resource for parish website, including rosters, hymn guides, training sources and other information for our ministry.

Thoughts from ministers on good liturgy

Andrew’s 6 principles:

1. The music chosen must be selected with the Gospel theme and liturgy in mind. The music group should have a conversation about the meaning of the Gospel and the appropriateness of the music selected with at least one other person.
2. Music forms an integral part of the liturgy. Its functions are to make prayer more joyful to lift hearts to God, to unite the community and to impart solemnity to the celebration.
3. Appropriate eye contact and smiling when appropriate in order to encourage full participation with the liturgy. The cantor should joyfully and confidently invite the assembly to participate.
4. The communion song begins when the celebrant takes communion and continues while communion is distributed.
5. The Musicians are to participate in the liturgy with special attention during the Eucharistic prayer between the Memorial Acclamation and Amen as to the focus facing towards the altar. The musicians should model for the congregations the focus to be towards the altar at specific times.
6. Song selection should give Youth a priority, as Youth are often the most ostracised group in the church statistically. Using more contemporary hymns can make the mass more appealing to young people. For example: choosing a contemporary song like “Broken Vessels” (2014) or “Oceans” (2013) for communion, should be given a priority rather than a hymn like “sweet sacrament” (1835).

Peter's 6 principles:

1. Remember that you are there to serve the song of the congregation. It is not how beautifully you sing or play, it's how well you can encourage their song.
2. Choice of music – Play the mass parts as highest priority. Hymns should reflect the readings by preference, fit the rite being performed, and by preference be the right length (e.g. don't play a short hymn at communion and repeat the verses 3 times!) Aspire to always sing the Psalm, even if it takes time and much practice to get there.
3. Strive for your best, practice often, be open to new music. Make time for training – liturgically and musically.
4. Understand how the liturgy flows – the seasons of the year, the 3-year cycle and why they are different, and the purpose of each rite in the mass as a whole.
5. Try to get to know your regular congregation so you know what will suit their understanding of worship. Play what suits them, not necessarily what suits you – but there is room for growth on both sides.
6. Get to know your fellow musicians, work as a team with them.

Bev's 6 Principles: (short and succinct!)

1. Be prepared.
2. Be prayerful.
3. Be liturgically aware.
4. Be inclusive.
5. Keep up to date.
6. Be inspiring.

Underway & Ongoing

1. Vision for sacred music in the parish: a plan for the music ministry in the parish.
 - 1.a. Welcoming & training new ministers
 - 1.a.i. Recruitment of new musicians, particularly from the younger members of the congregation.
 - 1.a.ii. Development of ministry of projectionist/AV controller.
 - 1.a.iii.
 - 1.b. Development of training process to assist new and existing musicians in understanding of liturgy.
 - 1.b.i. 6 principles?
 - 1.b.ii. Folder?
 - 1.b.iii. Access to resources on St Agatha's website
 - 1.c. Resourcing, renewal & training for Musicians, especially new groups.
 - 1.d. Communication issues. Improve communication and teamwork among existing music group. Social networking.
 - 1.e. Improving our repertoire.
 - 1.f. Broadening mass responses to cover 3 major types of seasons.
 - 1.g. Known Music.
 - 1.h. Picking new Music – particular for younger people.
 - 1.i. Minimisation of distractions by musicians.
2. Continued upgrade of hymn guides.
3. Replacement of locker locks and consolidation & organisation of music library.
4. Resiting of organ (new or replacement), piano and integration of Audio-visual control desk.