

## DIOCESAN LITURGY FORUM

# Remaining Faithful

## *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist*

### Background

On 21 May 1988, the Congregation for Divine Worship promulgated the *Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*. The Directory responded to enquiries from bishops around the world. True to its nature as a 'directory' it gathered in previous statements without saying anything new.

In response to this Directory, in 2003 after much consultation and research, the Australian Catholic Bishops published two documents:

*Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest: Directives for the Dioceses of Australia*

*Theology and Liturgical Catechesis regarding Sunday Celebrations of the Word and Sunday Celebrations of the Hours.*

At that time there were many parishes across Australia and in our own diocese where it was not possible for the community to celebrate Mass on Sunday. The Australian documents were a development of the thinking in the Roman Directory and reflected the needs of our Australian context.

In August 2004, after more than 12 months of consultation and dialogue, Bishop Michael Malone promulgated a document titled *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist Diocesan Guidelines*. In doing so he did what was required by both the Vatican Directory and the Australian Bishops' documents.

Since then, the Church has continued to reflect on the experience of *Sunday Celebrations of the Word* and articulate its developing thought in a range of documents belonging to the universal church.

In the intervening years, our circumstances have changed significantly. In our diocese the ministry of priests from overseas largely eliminated the need for *Sunday Celebrations of the Word*. With the COVID-19 pandemic came an outbreak of online/live streamed liturgies which has changed the liturgical landscape and provided us with a lot to ponder.

### Purpose

In 2022, we find ourselves in a situation where our brothers who are ordained priests are finding it difficult to cover the current Sunday Mass schedule in some parts of the diocese. Once again circumstances are pointing to the need to prepare for an increasing 'real and serious need' for regular *Sunday Celebrations* and for emergency situations.

Given this situation the Diocesan Liturgy Council (DLC) has established the Remaining Faithful Forum to:

- study the existing documents
- listen to and reflect on the need and emerging pastoral issues
- determine and provide informed support to parish and diocesan communities in discerning the most appropriate pastoral response where there is a need

## DIOCESAN LITURGY FORUM

# Remaining Faithful

## *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist*

- consider the issue of emergency situations and develop a response
- consider and draft an interim resource that will both facilitate community dialogue and provide guidance until a new bishop is able to reflect on this issue.
- prepare and facilitate formation for the community.

### Responsibility

The *Diocesan Liturgy Forum: Remaining Faithful* is the responsibility of the DLC and is accountable to it through the Diocesan Manager Worship and Prayer.

### Membership

Members are appointed by the DLC, through invitation or expression of interest in response to pastoral need and the work of the Forum.

The Forum shall function for as long as there is a need.

### Organisation

The Manager Worship and Prayer will convene the Forum.

Members will determine:

- the nature, frequency, time and venue for their gatherings
- the agenda and process to ensure the Forum achieves its purpose
- the manner of preparing the agendas and minutes which will be tabled at the DLC meetings

The Forum is supported by Office Worship and Prayer.

### Contact

For further information please contact:

Louise Gannon rsj

Diocesan Manager Worship and Prayer

P: 4979 1135 E: [louise.gannon@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:louise.gannon@mn.catholic.org.au)

8 June, 2022