

# Guidelines and Resources for Masses with a Special Focus on Youth and Young Adults

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Some basic liturgical principles which apply to Masses with a special focus on youth and young adults:

## **Begin with a welcoming community**

- Welcomers and greeters at each door genuinely welcoming parishioners
- Ensure ministers have arrived 10 minutes prior to Mass

## **Preparation is essential to ensure the smooth running of the liturgy**

- For those preparing the liturgy, music ministers and readers particularly - ensure participants have reflected on the Scriptures before Mass
- Choose music that reflects the readings
- Encourage good preparation for readers. Remember that they are not just reading a text, but proclaiming the Word, using phrasing and pauses

## **Engage young people in the community in the Mass**

- Ensure collectors and those participating in the presentation of the gifts are prepared prior to the commencement of Mass (When inviting young people to take on roles of ministry remember that they will need guidance and support)

## **Music is integral to the Mass as with any liturgy**

- Ensure the music for the liturgy is appropriate. Choose hymns that are Gospel and community focused, particularly for the Gathering Hymn and Recessional Hymn
- It is a great idea to have a few music workshops with your youth music team to learn more about the use of music in the Mass
- There are parts of the Mass that really should be sung rather than spoken, e.g. the Responsorial Psalm. Ensure that cantors are confident and have practiced

## **Communicate with the Presiding Celebrant**

- Inform the presiding celebrant of the parts of the Mass that will be sung

## **A beautiful spirit**

- Enjoy the Mass. Pope Francis constantly talks about the joy of the Gospel. Enjoy what you do and smile during Mass!
- It is important that the youth ministers and youth groups work as a team. However, ensure somebody is designated to handle emergencies or cancellations of participants of the youth Mass
- Formation for all areas of ministry is available - ensure that you take up these opportunities at the Institute for Mission and Office for Worship among others

There are many books, documents, websites that can give you inspiration to enhance your liturgy. Have a look at the following:

- *Rebuilt: The Story of a Catholic Parish* by Fr Michael White and Tom Corcoran
- *Anointed and Sent: An Australian Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by the ACBC Australian Catholic Youth Council
- Australian Catholic Youth Ministry: Theological and Pastoral Foundations for Faithful Ministry, ed. Fr Christian Fini OMI and Fr Christopher Ryan MGL
- *Empowering Young People: A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry* by Fr Christian Fini OMI
- *The Catholic Youth Bible*

Websites for youth ministry (some require subscriptions):

- Center for Liturgy ([www.liturgy.slu.edu](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu))
- Prepare the Word: Whole Parish Evangelisation ([www.preparetheword.com](http://www.preparetheword.com))
- Facebook pages of diocesan and local youth groups
- Twitter accounts in the areas of youth ministry
- Australian Catholics ([www.australiancatholics.com.au](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au))
- Spirit and Song/OCP ([www.ocp.org](http://www.ocp.org))
- As One Voice: Music for the Worshipping Community ([www.asonevoice.com.au](http://www.asonevoice.com.au))
- 'Gather, Proclaim, Break, Send' online resource([www.gpbs.com.au](http://www.gpbs.com.au))
- Liturgy Planning by Emmaus Productions ([www.liturgyplanning.com.au](http://www.liturgyplanning.com.au))
- Liturgy Help ([www.liturgyhelp.com.au](http://www.liturgyhelp.com.au))

Other resources and events:

- Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention
- Australian Catholic Youth Festival
- Visiting other parishes for advice
- Visiting school Masses
- Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP)
- Our Parramatta Pastoral Plan: *Faith in Our Future 2014-2018*
- Short courses on liturgy are available through the Office for Worship