



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MANDATE

OF THE

BISHOPS COMMISSION

FOR

LITURGY

NOVEMBER 2019

Preamble

The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all the Church's power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of his Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's Supper. From the liturgy, therefore, particularly the Eucharist, grace is poured forth upon us as from a fountain; the liturgy is the source for achieving in the most effective way possible human sanctification and God's glorification, the end to which all the Church's other activities are directed.

[Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963) art. 10].

1. Membership and Meetings

- 1.1. The Commission shall comprise three (3) members as the Conference by-laws determine.
- 1.2. The Commission shall ordinarily meet biannually a time and place that the members determine.
- 1.3. The Commission shall meet using communications technology when the agenda or circumstances warrant.

2. Areas of Responsibility

The Commission sets priorities in consultation with the Conference, plans and develops strategies at the national level to promote the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the following specific areas of responsibility.

- 2.1. Matters relating to liturgy and the worship of the Church
- 2.2. Liaison with other commissions of the Conference in relation to liturgical matters

3. Particular Functions

In particular, the Commission performs the following functions:

- 3.1. The Commission guides and supports the activity of the Church and its agencies in these areas:
 - 3.1.1. Presentation of liturgical books for Australia to the Conference for approval
 - 3.1.2. Liaison with the International Commission on English in the Liturgy with respect to common editions of liturgical books and preparation of such supplements or adaptations as required for Australia

- 3.1.3. Assistance to the Conference in its relations with the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and other dicasteries in matters relating to liturgy
 - 3.1.4. Assistance to the Conference and its members in the implementation in Australia of the liturgical directives of the Holy See
 - 3.1.5. Regulation and governance of the publication and use of liturgical books in any commercial or non-commercial venture and safeguarding of the integrity of the publications
- 3.2. The Commission develops national policies in the specific areas of its responsibilities as approved or requested by the Conference.
- 3.3. The Commission provides support to the Conference and its members:
- 3.3.1. With the National Liturgical Council to foster and develop the pastoral liturgical life of Australia, and to supervise the initiatives and work of the Council
 - 3.3.2. To encourage liturgical education in Australia and the academic study and research in liturgy
 - 3.3.3. To promote especially liturgical music, and the development of liturgical art and liturgical architecture
- 3.4. The Commission undertakes such specific projects as the Conference may from time to time approve or request.

4. Advisory Role

The Commission advises the Conference and its members on issues that arise in the areas of its responsibility and, where appropriate, makes recommendations for action that the Conference might undertake at a national level.

5. Advisory Bodies

The Commission establishes, in accordance with the mandates in Schedule 1, the following advisory bodies to assist it in its responsibilities:

- 5.1. National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council
- 5.2. National Liturgical Council
- 5.3. National Liturgical Music Council

6. Relations

6.1. The Commission maintains relations with:

- 6.1.1. Australian Consultation on Liturgy
- 6.1.2. Australian Pastoral Musicians Network
- 6.1.3. Christian Initiation Australia Network
- 6.1.4. Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
- 6.1.5. Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, Offices for Liturgy or Worship and other bodies undertaking liturgical education and formation in Australia
- 6.1.6. Guild of St Stephen
- 6.1.7. International Commission on English in the Liturgy and other such mixed commissions as may be established from time to time

6.2. The Commission may approve the establishment of relations between its Offices and other organisations.

7. Offices

The Commission supervises the work of the following offices of its Secretariat in accordance with the mandates detailed in Schedule 2.

7.1. National Office for Liturgy

8. Secretariat

The National Office for Liturgy assists the Commission in fulfilling its tasks.

Schedule 1: Mandate for Advisory Bodies

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| Name: | National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council |
| Area(s) of Responsibility: | <p>The Council advises the Commission in the promotion of the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the area of liturgical architecture, the liturgical arts and liturgical cultural patrimony.</p> <p>The Council's vision springs from the teaching of the Second Vatican Council:</p> <p>Architecture: When churches are to be built, let great care be taken that they be suitable for the celebration of liturgical services and for the active participation of the faithful. [<i>Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy</i> (1963) art. 124].</p> <p>Art: Holy Mother Church has ... always been the friend of the fine arts and has ever sought their noble help, with the special aim that all things set apart for use in divine worship should be truly worthy, becoming, and beautiful, signs and symbols of the supernatural world ... [<i>Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy</i> (1963) art. 122].</p> <p>Cultural Patrimony: The Church has not adopted any particular style of art as her very own; she has admitted styles from every period according to the natural talents and circumstances of peoples, and the needs of the various rites. Thus, in the course of the centuries, she has brought into being a treasury of art which must be very carefully preserved. The art of our own days, coming from every race and region, shall also be given free scope in the Church, provided that it adorns the sacred buildings and holy rites with due reverence and honour; thereby it is enabled to contribute its own voice to that wonderful chorus of praise in honour of the Catholic faith sung by great artists in times gone by [<i>Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy</i> (1963) art. 123].</p> <p>The Council serves the liturgical life the Catholic Church in Australia and its mission by providing advice about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The architectural design of new and reordered churches 2. The contribution of the sacred and liturgical arts to churches and the sacred liturgy 3. The preservation of the cultural heritage of the Church as pertains to churches and the sacred and liturgical arts <p>In particular, the Council performs the following functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assists the Commission to fulfil its function regarding the implementation in Australia of the liturgical directives of the Holy See pertaining to church architecture, the sacred and liturgical arts, and the preservation of cultural heritage 2. Provides guidelines for liturgical architecture, art and cultural heritage as may be determined by the Commission |

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| | <p>3. It develops educational programmes, which foster a better understanding of the liturgical directives of the Holy See and such national guidelines as may be authorised by the Commission regarding liturgical architecture, art, and the preservation of cultural heritage</p> <p>4. It reports to the Commission on developments and trends in the architectural design of churches, sacred and liturgical arts and liturgical aspects of cultural heritage</p> |
| Number of Councillors: | <p>The Council will comprise eight (8) appointed councillors, who will possess a graduate qualification and pastoral experience in architecture, art, liturgy or sacramental theology.</p> <p>A Bishop Delegate will represent the Commission at all meetings of the Council and will liaise as required with the Council chair in between meetings.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary of the Commission will provide support at all meetings of the Council and will liaise as required with the Council Chair in between meetings.</p> <p>The Council Chair will ordinarily include the Bishop Delegate and the Executive Secretary in discussions and consult them as part of the process of developing advice to the Commission.</p> |
| Appointment of Councillors: | <p>Following the appointment of members to the Commission at the May Plenary Meeting, the Commission will appoint councillors for the triennial term and will report these appointments to the Conference at the November Plenary Meeting. The Commission may re-appoint councillors for up to two subsequent terms.</p> |
| Appointment of the Chair: | <p>The Commission, on recommendation from the Council, will appoint the Chair for a triennial term from the membership of the Council.</p> |
| Frequency and Place of Meetings: | <p>The Council will meet biannually at a place of mutual convenience. The Council may meet at other times as required using a variety of communications technology.</p> |
| Administrative Support: | <p>The National Office for Liturgy will provide administrative support to the Council.</p> |

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| Name: | National Liturgical Council |
| Area(s) of Responsibility: | The Council advises the Commission in the promotion of the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the area of Catholic liturgical worship. |
| Number of Councillors: | <p>The Council will comprise eight (8) appointed councillors, who will possess a graduate qualification and pastoral experience in liturgy or sacramental theology.</p> <p>A Bishop Delegate will represent the Commission at all meetings of the Council and will liaise as required with the Council chair in between meetings.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary of the Commission will provide support at all meetings of the Council and will liaise as required with the Council Chair in between meetings.</p> <p>The Council Chair will ordinarily include the Bishop Delegate and the Executive Secretary in discussions and consult them as part of the process of developing advice to the Commission.</p> |
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| Appointment of the Chair: | The Commission, on recommendation from the Council, will appoint the Chair for a triennial term from the membership of the Council. |
| Frequency and Place of Meetings: | The Council will meet biannually at a place of mutual convenience. The Council may meet at other times as required using a variety of communications technology. |
| Administrative Support: | The National Office for Liturgy will provide administrative support to the Council. |

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| Name: | National Liturgical Music Council |
| Area(s) of Responsibility: | <p>The Council advises the Commission in the promotion of the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the area of music in Catholic liturgical worship.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council has been established by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy to provide advice on matters of principle and practice regarding the selection, publication and use of ritual and sacred music in the liturgies of the Catholic Church in Australia. 2. The principal documents guiding the work of the Council are <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> (1963) and <i>Musicam Sacram</i> (1967) and the <i>General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i> (2011). The Council is also informed by further sources of official information regarding music in the Sacred Liturgy found in the statements made over the decades since Vatican II by various popes and by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The Council can also, where appropriate, refer to statements by relevant national episcopal conferences to inform its work. 3. The major responsibility of the Council is to interpret this rich lode of doctrinal and pastoral wisdom to nuance fundamental Council teaching on sacred music so as to encourage the Catholic Church in Australia to select liturgical music that is theologically and musically sound, that conforms to official liturgical guidelines, and that pays due heed to the “particular circumstances of each liturgical assembly” (GIRM 18). 4. <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> paragraphs 112-120 provide a classic summary of the value the church traditionally places on Sacred Music. <i>Musicam Sacram</i> paragraphs 4 and 5 give further expression to the purpose and ‘functionality’ of liturgical music. 5. <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> paragraphs 14, 50, 79, 113 (and elsewhere) place great emphasis on the Council’s overall guiding principle of “full, conscious and active participation” of the assembly in the liturgy. <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> paragraph 30 clearly states that the song of the assembly is the major vehicle that enables and encourages the worshipping community’s active participation in the liturgy. 6. The <i>General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i> (2011), paragraph 48, confirms the standard post-Vatican II liturgical music provision that the traditional chant antiphons at the beginning of Mass, at the Offertory and at Communion can be replaced by other texts that have appropriate episcopal approval. The large growth in English-language Catholic liturgical music published since Vatican II has included new compositions, borrowings/adaptations from other Christian liturgical traditions and from the wider culture, and reworkings of traditional |

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| Area(s) of Responsibility: | <p>liturgical music to fit contemporary musical and social norms. The Council provides informed expert opinion regarding the appropriateness and use of such contemporary compositions in liturgical celebrations.</p> <p>7. The Council exists to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice to the Commission on liturgical music standards, the formation of liturgical ministers, the promotion of a national liturgical music repertoire and liturgical music policy for the Catholic Church in Australia; • advice to the Commission on approvals for English-language liturgical music from Australian and overseas publishers; • support for liturgy and liturgical music coordinators at diocesan level (including Catholic Education Offices); and • advice and encouragement to local composers and hymn writers. |
| Number of Councillors: | <p>The Council will comprise eight (8) appointed councillors, normally with a graduate qualification in music or liturgy, and collectively represent the diversity of dioceses and church settings in Australia.</p> <p>A Bishop Delegate will represent the Commission at all meetings of the Council and will liaise as required with the Council chair in between meetings.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary of the Commission will provide support at all meetings of the Council and will liaise as required with the Council Chair in between meetings.</p> <p>The Council Chair will ordinarily include the Bishop Delegate and the Executive Secretary in discussions and consult them as part of the process of developing advice to the Commission.</p> |
| Appointment of Councillors: | <p>Following the appointment of members to the Commission at the May Plenary Meeting, the Commission will appoint councillors for the triennial term and will report these appointments to the Conference at the November Plenary Meeting. The Commission may re-appoint councillors for up to two subsequent terms.</p> |
| Appointment of the Chair: | <p>The Commission, on recommendation from the Council, will appoint the Chair for a triennial term from the membership of the Council.</p> |
| Frequency and Place of Meetings: | <p>The Council will meet biannually at a place of mutual convenience. The Council may meet at other times as required using a variety of communications technology.</p> |
| Administrative Support: | <p>The National Office for Liturgy will provide administrative support to the Council.</p> |

Schedule 2: Mandates for Offices

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| Name: | National Office for Liturgy |
| Area(s) of Responsibility: | <p>The Office is responsible for the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinating the administrative support of the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council b. National Liturgical Council c. National Liturgical Music Council 2. Undertaking Commission-approved projects as the advisory bodies propose from time to time 3. Assisting with the planning and delivery of liturgical celebrations of the Conference and its agencies, in particular the Conference's plenary meetings |
| Appointment of the Director: | The Commission will appoint the Director on recommendation of a suitably qualified selection panel. The Commission will comply with the Conference policy on recruitment and selection and will appoint the Director in accord with Conference policy. |
| Staff: | The Director may employ staff as required from time to time to assist and be accountable to the Director in meeting the Mandate with the approval of the Commission and in accordance with Conference policy. |
| Accountability: | The Director is accountable to the Commission Chairman for fulfilling the Mandate of the Office and the positions of Director of the Office and the Executive Secretary of the Commission. |