



# Office for Worship

ISSUE I

MARCH 2011

## The Purpose of this Bulletin

During the course of the year, the Office for Worship will publish a bulletin which we hope will assist parish clergy and those who assist them in parishes with the liturgy. The Office is deeply appreciative of all those who assist in the worship of the Church, particularly those in lay liturgical ministries. The bulletin will also provide ongoing information from Sr Mary Louise Walsh (Liturgy educator) about resourcing the Sacraments of Initiation and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Readers will be very much aware of the preparation that is taking place for the introduction of the new translation of the Roman Missal which will come into effect during this year.

From 12 June, 2011 parishes will start using the new responses and parts of the Order of Mass. This will be a phased in process and the clergy of the Diocese will be introduced to the process and how that might be managed at the local Parish level at the clergy meeting on Wednesday in Holy Week before the Chrism Mass, and also on 19 May, 2011 before the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese.

In the meantime the Office is organizing a series of workshops for parish musicians to introduce them to some of the new Mass settings that have been circulating since the beginning of the year. Parish clergy are reminded that these new settings can

be introduced now. You don't need to wait until 12 June, and in many ways it would be preferable for the people to learn the new text of the Ordinary by way of song. When 12 June comes it will make the process of introducing the said responses so much easier.

Please explore the website of the National Liturgical Council where you will find a lot of resource material and also a number of valuable links to other websites that will facilitate the process of implementation.

The site is:  
[www.romanmissalaustralia.org.au](http://www.romanmissalaustralia.org.au)

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## Time for the Easter Vigil

Parish clergy might remember that there was some discussion about this matter last year. The official time for sunset on 23 April, 2011 is 5.23 p.m. The reason for requesting parishes to commence their Vigil celebration after that time is to draw

attention specifically to the fact that this is a night Vigil and does not have the same character as a normal Sunday Vigil Mass. The Easter Vigil is the continuation of the *Triduum* which begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continues

with the celebration of the Passion on Good Friday and culminates with the Easter Vigil. Thus it would be expected that the earliest time for the Easter Vigil in any parish in the Diocese this year would be 6.00 p.m.

# The Sacraments of Initiation for Children

Sacramental Coordinators,

As the year is in full swing, a number of parishes have their sacramental programs well under way – others will have very soon. As you are aware, last year Bishop Anthony announced there would be a new policy for the sacraments of initiation for children. These changes involve the age of the child receiving the sacrament, and the order of the sacraments of initiation.

By placing the sacrament of Confirmation after the first Eucharist, this does not change our understanding of the sacraments. The sacraments of initiation remain the same: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Confirmation is still as we know, the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

Currently the Office for Worship is developing new material and resources for the sacrament of Confirmation. The programs for Baptism, Penance and Eucharist will remain the same. As soon as this is completed it will be available to parishes. For those parishes who are preparing children for the sacrament of Confirmation this year it is still acceptable to use the current resource.

At a later stage the resources for the other sacraments – in particular the Eucharist formation resources will also be

adapted to include the new translation of the Roman Missal as necessary. Quite a number of coordinators have already ordered resources. As the text will be changing the same will be done in the new editions of the booklet 'Our Family Gathers to Celebrate the Eucharist', to reflect the new changes.

**To make ordering easier for you the order form for parent and child preparation material can now be downloaded from our website:**

<http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/about-your-diocese/office-for-worship/order-form.aspx>

In the near future I will be contacting the sacramental coordinators to invite them to attend a formation session that will include an introduction to the new material for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Some of you I have already met and spoke with – I look forward to meeting you soon. If you have any questions or if there is anything I can be of assistance with please contact me.

Sr Mary Louise Walsh

## Special Thanks:

The Office would like to thank Louise Debeck of the Parish of Glenbrook for assisting in coordinating the Rite of Election, Penitential Liturgy and the Neophytes Mass for those in the RCIA process this year. Louise has been very active in the RCIA for many years, and we are most appreciative of her assistance during this time of transition in the operations of the Office.

## Important Note

Would all parish clergy please note that the new texts of the Mass should **NOT** be introduced before 12 June, 2011. Requests have come to the Office for the Order of Mass texts. As reported the laminated cards will be available shortly to all parishes, but in the interim only the sung texts should be used.

## RCIA

Catechumens and Candidates,

As we delve more deeply into Lent, the Catechumens (unbaptised) and the Candidates (baptised) who are journeying to Easter will join with their sponsors in more intense study and prayer as Easter approaches.

On the First Sunday in Lent the Catechumens gathered at the Cathedral and were presented to Bishop Anthony for the Rite of Election. The Rite of Welcome was held in each of their parishes during Mass earlier in the day when the Catechumens signed the Book of the Elect. The parish priests and RCIA Co-ordinators then brought their Book of the Elect before Bishop Anthony for him to sign. When this process was complete the Catechumens became 'the Elect'

The Candidates will be presented to Bishop Anthony at 7.30pm Friday 1 April 2011 during a Penitential Service. This service is held as part of the ongoing formation of the Candidates and to formally recognise the importance of the baptism they have already received.

There will have an opportunity for the candidates, their sponsors and the RCIA teams to meet with Bishop Anthony over refreshments after the service.

At the Easter Vigil both the Elect and the Candidates will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please keep them in your prayers.