



23 October 2024

To Clergy and Parish Leaders

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Resumption of Communion from the Chalice in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle on 1 December 2024

The Church's 'how-to guide' for the celebration of Mass, The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, says that "it is most desirable that the faithful... receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass and that, in the cases where this is foreseen, they partake of the chalice" so that it may "stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated" (n.85). It goes on to say, "Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds" (n.281).

Having received advice from the Diocesan Liturgy Council and discussed the matter extensively with the Council of Priests I hereby lift the restriction on Communion from the chalice in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle that was put in place during the Covid pandemic. This takes effect from the beginning of the upcoming Liturgical Year on Sunday 1 December 2024, the First Sunday of Advent

Those responsible in parishes for leading the discernment around if, when, and how to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice at Mass should read the accompanying document from the Liturgy Council "Pastoral Guidance for the Resumption of Communion from the Chalice".

Here, I call attention to a few considerations.

- Whilst receiving Holy Communion under both kinds is a fuller sign, a person who chooses to receive only the Host, still receives Christ whole and entire.
- A person with symptoms of cold, flu, Covid, or other virus should not share the chalice with others.
- Whatever may remain of the Blood of Christ after Holy Communion must be consumed immediately by the priest, deacon, acolyte, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. They should not be pressured or coerced to do this if they have reasonable concerns about it.

Given these and other practical considerations it is therefore of the utmost importance for parishes to undertake proper discernment about this. I ask clergy and parish leaders to begin by reading the accompanying advice which sets out more fully these and other considerations as well as propose a path forward for parish discernment.

Yours in Christ

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

+MK/ed

D24/61642