



Religious Education Accreditation Program

Introduction to Liturgy



**Brisbane
Catholic
Education**

teaching • challenging • transforming

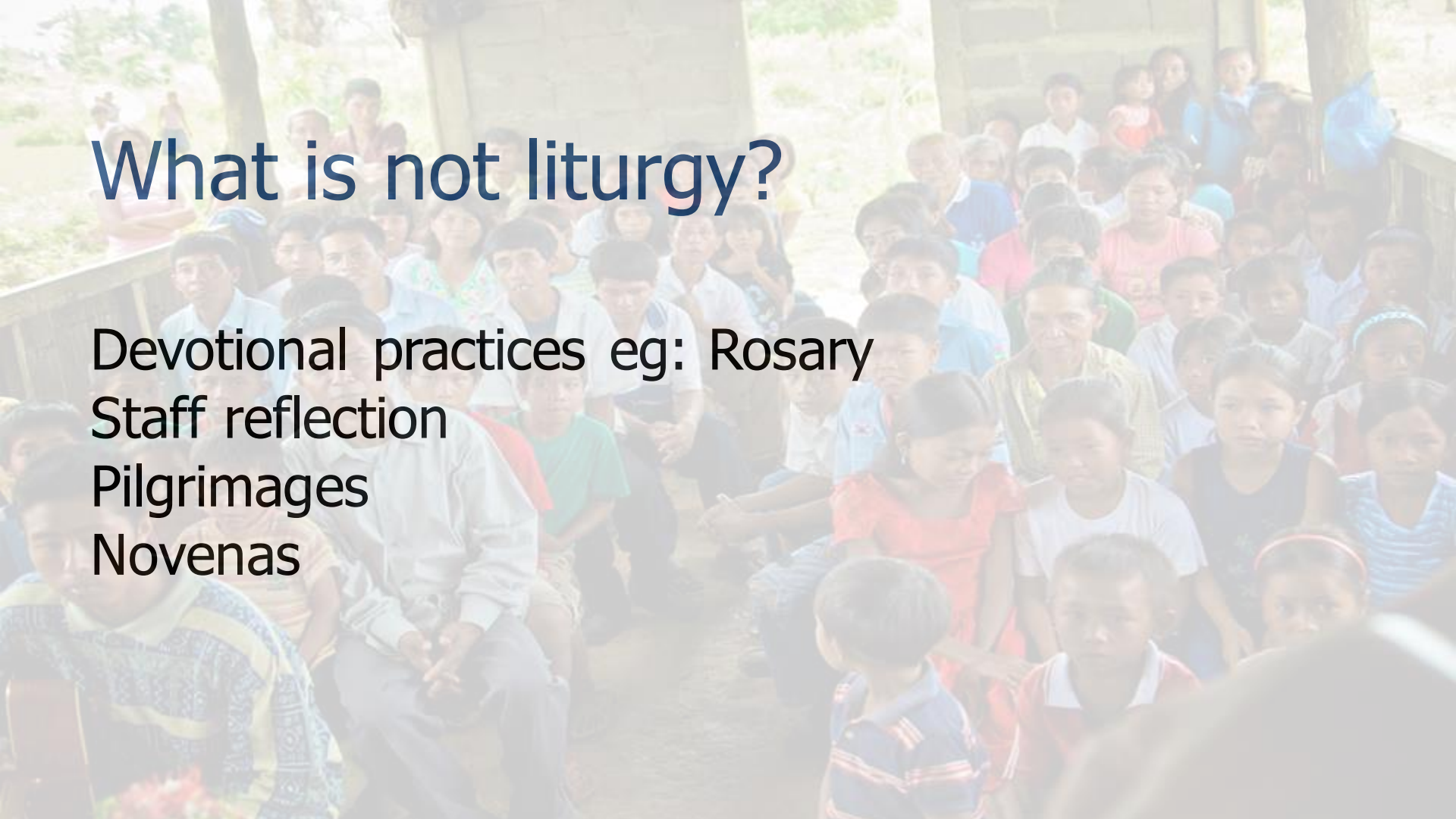
We are a faith-filled learning community creating a better future

What is liturgy?

- Liturgy of the Mass
- Celebrations of the seven sacraments
(Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick)
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass
- Liturgies of the Word
- Rites of religious profession
- Blessings
- Funerals

What is not liturgy?

Devotional practices eg: Rosary
Staff reflection
Pilgrimages
Novenas



What is the purpose of Liturgy?

- According to the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (para. 7), the ultimate aim of the liturgy is the perfect glorification of God and the sanctification (making holy) of those who celebrate it.
- Formation- believers forming the Body of Christ
- Sacrifice – a love story (*passio*: to suffer)
- Tradition – a connection to something greater, an encounter with God
- Testament/covenant - relationship

Definitions

LITURGY – The Official Communal Worship of the Church

PRAYER – Personal communication or petition addressed to a deity, esp. in the form of supplication, adoration, praise, contrition, or thanksgiving. (Collins Dictionary, emphasis added).

RITUAL – The prescribed or established form of a religious or other ceremony. (Collins Dictionary)

EUCCHARIST – A Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'. Every Eucharist celebrates and gives thanks for the 'paschal mystery' – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MASS – The most common form of liturgy used by Catholic Church. Two major parts –Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of Eucharist.



Katholikos

In the Catholic Faith there is-
Unity among diversity: a universal church.
Unity of doctrine, law, sacraments.

Vatican II Council's first two constitutions:

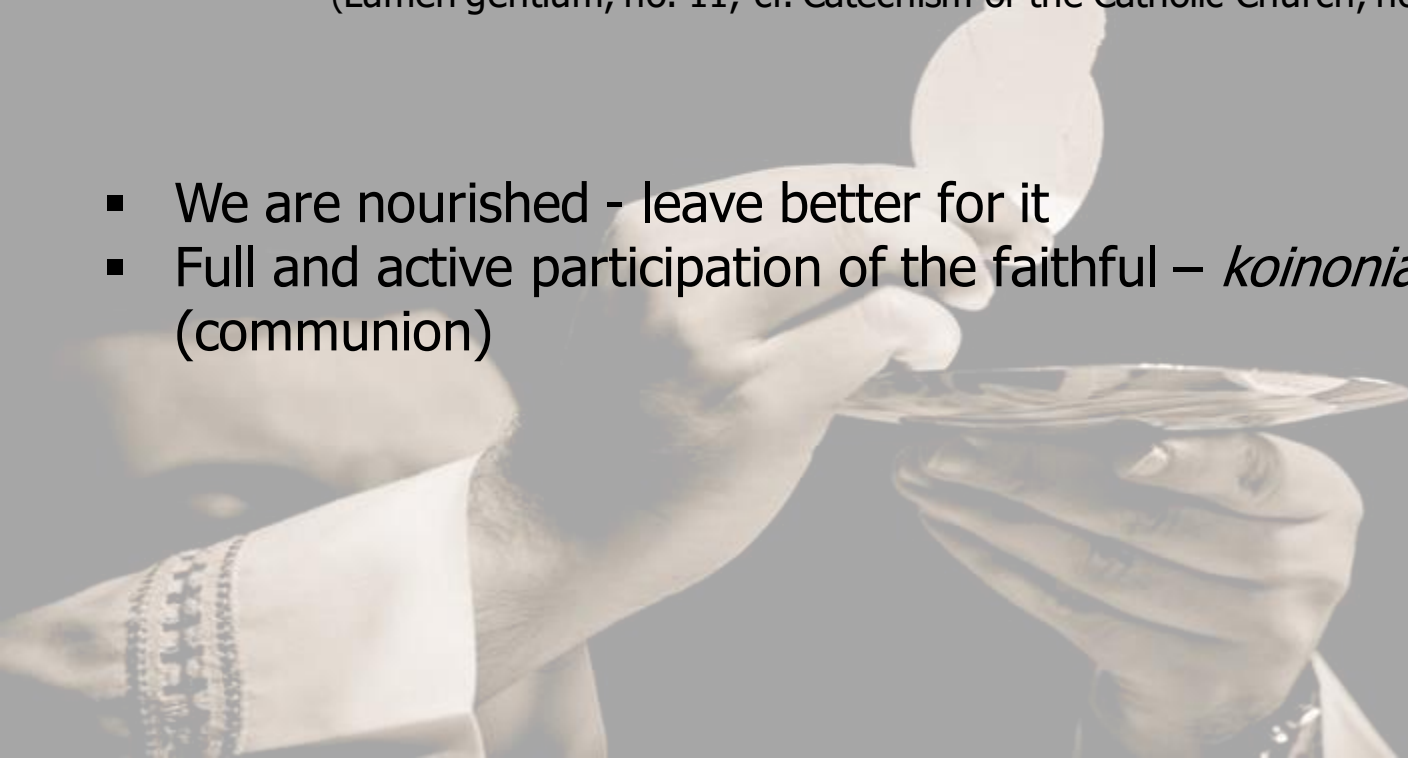
- Sacrosanctum Concilium
- Lumen gentium – a church IN the world

Establishing *sensus fidelium* (a sense of the faithful, universal agreement in faith/morality/teachings that are 'true.')

Eucharist is "*the source and summit of the Christian life*"

(Lumen gentium, no. 11; cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1324).

- We are nourished - leave better for it
- Full and active participation of the faithful – *koinonia* (communion)



There are no themes.
The only theme is
Eucharist: the
remembrance of the
Passion.

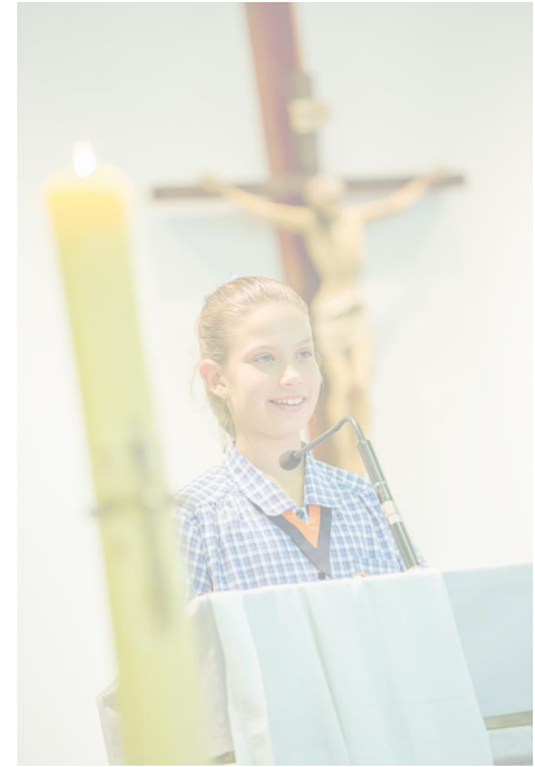
Be inclusive. Rubrics ensure
everyone knows what is
happening and can be included.

Preparation for
Eucharist should always
reflect the assembly. If
most are unchurched,
then a Liturgy of the
Word is better.

Eucharist. Photo by unknown
author. Used under Creative
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<https://pixabay.com/photos/eucharist-christian-bread-wine-885277/>

Principles of Good Liturgy

- Liturgy is *a/ways* an act of praise of and to God.
- The aim to be considered before all else when preparing and celebrating liturgy is the full, conscious and active participation of everyone.



Reader at mass. Photo © BCEO.
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- Liturgy is not a solo performance or entertainment.
- Christ is present whenever liturgy is celebrated:
 - in the people assembled for worship
 - in the scriptures proclaimed
 - in the consecrated elements
 - in the person of the ordained presider.
- Liturgy is a ritual activity; there are set patterns and familiar cues and responses.



- Liturgical symbols should be large and clear.
- Liturgy is more than only words.
- Liturgy has a beginning, end and middle.
- All liturgy has a *Gather/ Listen/ Do/ Go* structure.

Candle bearer. Photo ©BCEO.
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Overview of the Mass

Key moments in the Mass



Overview of the mass. Image from
<http://www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/receive/dsp-content.cfm?loadref=39>
Accessed August 2020.

What has to be prepared:

Outline of Liturgy

Texts (readings, prayers)

Music & song

Environment & symbol

Gesture & movement

Times of silence

Liturgical Ministers

Assembly

Worship aids

(booklet, PowerPoint, etc)

Connecting liturgy & life

3 Year Lectionary Cycle

Past, Present, Future: Universal

- Don't change readings unless you have to for your participants
- Sing the psalm reading whenever possible
- First reading + Gospel are often connected



Directory for Masses with Children.

This document comes from the *Congregation for Divine Worship* (Rome, 1973).

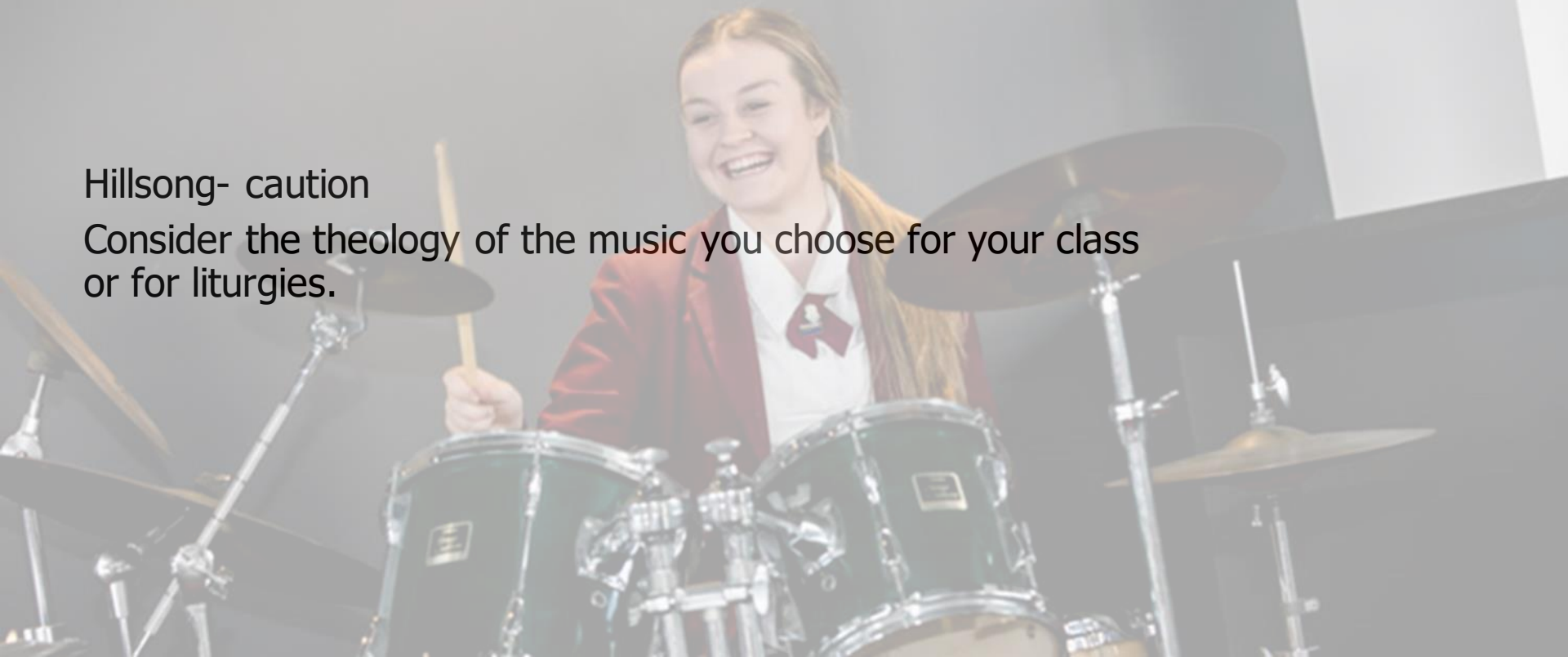
43. If all the readings assigned to the day seem to be unsuited to the capacity of the children, it is permissible to choose readings or a reading either from the Lectionary of the Roman Missal or directly from the Bible but taking into account the liturgical seasons. It is recommended, moreover, that the individual conferences of bishops see to the composition of lectionaries for Masses with children.

If, because of the limited capabilities of the children, it seems necessary to omit one or other verse of biblical reading, this should be done cautiously and in such a way "that the meaning of the text or the intent and, as it were, style of the Scriptures are not distorted."

We sing what we believe:

Hillsong- caution

Consider the theology of the music you choose for your class or for liturgies.



What receives priority for singing?

There are four acclamations which should be sung at Mass, even if there is no other singing:

- Gospel Acclamation
- 'Holy, Holy'
- Memorial Acclamation
- Great Amen

Three criteria for deciding whether music is suitable:

- Musical Judgement
- Liturgical Judgement
- Pastoral Judgement

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Resources

The Missal

The Lectionary

Ordo

The Rites

Book of Blessings

The Liturgy Documents: A Parish Resource

(All of the above available on Liturgia)

Powerful Points for Liturgical Ministers

The Liturgical Commission Website (www.litcom.net.au)

Liturgy News

[Liturgy Brisbane](#)

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For more information

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