

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Purpose:

The Celebrant may be assisted in the distribution of Communion during Mass by Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, also known as Eucharistic Ministers and Communion Ministers.

Responsible to:

Parish Priest or Senior Pastoral Associate

Role Description:

Eucharistic Ministers assist the Celebrant in distributing the Communion to the people during Mass.

Duties:

The Eucharistic Minister will:

- Arrive 15 minutes before the commencement of Mass and make themselves known to the Celebrant in the Sacristy.
- Process in with the Celebrant at the beginning of Mass and recess out at the conclusion of Mass.
- Join the Celebrant on the Sanctuary at the beginning of the praying of the *Lamb of God*, following any health-related guidelines.
- After receiving Communion, assist the Celebrant to distribute Communion to the people.
- Hold up the Host and say, *The Body of Christ* (the person will reply *Amen*). The Host is then placed in the palm of the hand of the person receiving Communion. If a child/person presents with their arms crossed, a simple blessing is given over them.
- After the distribution of Communion is complete, return to the Sanctuary and place the paten on the altar. A minister may be asked by the Celebrant to return the Ciborium to the tabernacle. The remaining ministers bow to the altar and return to their seat.

Duties may vary from parish to parish.

Conditions:

- This is a volunteer role.
- The anticipated commitment is to be placed on a roster and assist on a regular basis.

Eucharistic Ministers are required to:

- hold a current Victorian Working with Children Check or Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration with the parish registered as a volunteer organisation. This check remains current for five years;
- read and sign the Safeguarding Code of Conduct. Once signed, it will remain current for three years;

- Complete the Safeguarding Essentials online training module. Once completed, it will remain current for three years.

Training required:

- All volunteers must complete a safeguarding training module as required.
- Initial induction training prior to commencing in the role and other training as required.

Qualifications and experience:

- No prior experience is required as Eucharistic Ministers are provided with special instruction before they perform this ministry.
- Practices the Catholic faith through regular attendance at Mass and commitment to ongoing personal faith formation.

Skills and attributes:

- Respects the cultural, gender and age diversity of the parish.
- Committed to the safety of children, young people and vulnerable people.
- Commitment to ongoing personal faith formation.
- Willingness to participate in learning opportunities e.g. induction, training and development.
- Willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team.
- Respect confidentiality and privacy.
- Able to communicate effectively and respectfully with others.

Benefits to this position:

Those who commit to this ministry have the special privilege of sharing the Body of Christ with the congregation during Mass.