

Appropriate Adaptation of the Liturgy *for celebrations with schools, young people etc.*

The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be truly heightened if the texts of the readings, the prayers, and the liturgical songs correspond as closely as possible to the needs, spiritual preparation, and capacity of participants.

Celebrations with smaller groups, celebrations outside churches or chapels, Masses with children, young people, the sick, or persons with disabilities, and ritual Masses (for example, funeral or wedding Masses) at which a significant number of the assembly may be non-communicants or non-believers will necessarily impose different demands appropriate to the needs of the occasion.

The *Directory for Masses with Children* recognises that Mass may need to be accommodated to the needs of children when they constitute a significant proportion of the assembly. This does not suggest composing rites that are altogether special or different from the Order of Mass as it is usually celebrated. One of the purposes of specially prepared Masses for children is to lead the children to the celebration of Mass with adults, particularly the Sunday Mass of the community.

GIRM 352, CTM 135, 136

Some Questions

- In what ways is the relationship with Sunday Mass expressed?
- How are the needs of the adult participants addressed in the preparation and celebration of the liturgy?
- What formation is available to those who prepare liturgy?
- How are connections made between Mass and other times of prayer?

Further References

General Instruction of the Roman Missal
18, 32, 109, 352

Directory for Masses with Children

Celebrating the Mass
22–32, 127–138

Redemptionis Sacramentum
39–41

Practical Points

- Make sure that those who minister are well prepared and have an understanding of their role within the celebration.
- Participation as a member of the assembly is fundamentally different to everyone having something to do.
- Develop the children's capacity for listening to the readings and for silent reflection in other acts of worship.
- Much good music has been written so that children can sing the Mass rather than sing at Mass.
- Share musical repertoire with the local parish.
- Use the Sunday gospel as a foundation for the week's prayer.

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Questions for Groups

1. What is good about current practice?
What concerns do you have?

4. Who is most directly involved in these matters, e.g. liturgical ministers?
What formation/information is necessary to engage them in the renewal of current practice?

2. In what ways does the documentation affirm or challenge your current practice?

5. How will the assembly be engaged in the process?
What, in particular, needs addressing at Sunday and/or weekday celebrations?

3. Prioritise the issues you have identified.

6. How will you know whether the formation has worked?