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Beyond Vatican II's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*

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Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
A Liturgical Reform in Peril:
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Visit acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy for further details.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

When the vote approving *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (SC) was announced on 4 December 1963, (2147 for, four against), it was “greeted by endlessly prolonged applause that ran from tribune to tribune and throughout the broad naves and vast spaces of the basilica, while a restrained but festive joy was reflected in face after face” (Annibale Bugnini, *The Reform of the Liturgy 1948 – 1975*, p.37). Sixty years on, in a vastly changed world, we celebrate the anniversary of the Catholic Church’s reform of its liturgical practice, noting the many positive outcomes of SC, and highlighting aspects of its vision where ongoing formative education is still required. History demonstrates that the church’s liturgy, embodied by God’s people from age to age, across cultures, in myriad languages and multitudinous locales, changes, grows, contracts, develops, declines, renews, and when it serves its *raison d’être* always glorifies God and sanctifies humankind.

As we celebrate SC at sixty, it is good to look back and review Vatican II’s liturgical mission statement and refresh our understanding of its rich

vision; to look around at how well we are embodying that vision; and to look forward to plan what is needed to maintain and progress SC’s vision in our time, place and cultural milieu.

In his feature article, Gerard Moore beautifully describes the riches of today’s Catholic liturgy enacting the vision of Vatican II. In ‘Sharing Good Practice’, I highlight some parts of SC that are worthy of renewed attention as we engage in continued formation for and by the liturgy (*Desiderio Desideravi* #34).

Let us celebrate with festive joy 60 years of the liturgy of Vatican II.



Professor Clare V. Johnson

Director, ACU Centre for Liturgy
Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy



Blessing of St Teresa of Kolkata Statue, August 2023



Endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

FROM OUR BOARD OF ADVISORS

Liturgical formation for participation

As someone who was in late primary school in 1963, the changes that flowed from the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, seemed more evolutionary than revolutionary. While attending a Catholic boarding

school for the secondary years every few months seemed to reveal further changes. The message was one of more active participation of the laity in the Church's liturgies while observing at times a tension between traditional and contemporary expression of that participation. Sixty years on and with Pope Francis' emphasis that the "reform of the liturgy is irreversible" (National Liturgical Week address, 24 August 2017), development continues. Importantly there is a responsibility for lay faithful to engage in opportunities for formation to enhance their participation, particularly at a time

of perceived disengagement. Fortunately, ACU Centre for Liturgy provides a critical resource to support schools, education systems, and parishes as well as providing academic and research opportunities so vital to our continuing formation and enhanced liturgical life of the Catholic Church.



Professor Emerita Marea Nicholson AM
Former ACU Associate Vice-Chancellor

NEWS AND RECENT EVENTS

Our online public lecture by Dr Phyllis Zagano on 7 August, explored issues relating to the Catholic female diaconate for an appreciative audience. Professor Johnson and Dr Taylor coordinated the well-received liturgy and music for the Blessing of ACU's new St Teresa of Kolkata Building in Melbourne on 28 August. Clare presented "Liturgy and Creating Liturgical Spaces" workshops for Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools' *Fanning the Flames* formation program on 3 August and 6 September.

Our podcast, *Speaking of Liturgy*, has achieved more than 1200 downloads since launching in May. Cathy Murrowood delivered a plenary presentation on liturgical hospitality at the APMN/NLC Conference in Brisbane on 29 September. Dr Taylor presented a workshop on organ repertoire and a workshop with Sophy Morley on responsorial psalmody.

Cathy and Paul participated in the National Liturgical Council and Liturgical and Musical Consultants meeting on 27 September.



Professor Johnson and Dr Taylor presented a liturgical music workshop for the Church of the Good Shepherd, Gladstone Park VIC (11 Oct). Professor Johnson offered a keynote address on *Desiderio Desideravi* and Dr Taylor presented a workshop on liturgical music for Sandhurst Diocese's Liturgical Ministry Seminars at Wangaratta on 14 October and Shepparton (October 18).

Professor Johnson will offer a public lecture "Realising Sacrosanctum Concilium's vision: liturgical maturation in the era of Pope Francis" on 29 November as part of the Scholarship in the Cathedral series at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney.

Our online training programs for Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion continue to engage participants from parishes and schools around Australia. Participants have lauded the richness of the online modules, and helpful interactions with the Centre's facilitators, other online learners and local pastoral ministers.

The ACU Centre for Liturgy will host a scholarly symposium to mark the 60th anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* from 3 - 5 December at ACU's Melbourne Campus, featuring a public lecture by Rev Prof John F Baldovin SJ.

LITURGY SPOTLIGHT

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: 60 years on and still with Spirit

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* will mark 60 years on 4 December this year. The power and presence of the Spirit will not be denied. Our worship faces Godward with voices and energies that emerge from the baptised and which merge the prayers, hopes, needs, praise and lament of each day, all placed before the triune mystery of love. And with an expectation of transformation and new life.

Under the Constitution, the Word of God proclaimed is central to our worship. The Sunday and daily masses have a breadth of lectionary passages and psalm chants, well ordered but with room for individual celebrations and urgent needs. Every liturgical form, from funerals to rites of reconciliation to the Liturgy of the Hours, opens us to the Word of God. The scriptures directly influence the preaching we hear, the reflections we tell,

the petitions we make and the music we choose.

Our many rites and ritual actions, biblically inspired, offer us entry points into the ways of divine mystery. We attend with silence, collect our petitions, enjoin with our 'amen', sing the Gloria, sign our bodies with the cross, form ourselves into processions, and eat, drink, wash and anoint, ever conscious that in doing these

actions we are allowing the Spirit to take hold of our lives and our communities. The communion of saints is with us. There are feasts and commemorations, new and old.

We celebrate our rites and liturgies in the forms and sounds and actions of the early Christian communities. We take up the rituals they bequeathed to us, and as they created and celebrated them in their language and cultural matrix, so we refresh and celebrate them in ours.

In this we discover new things and rediscover former graces. We approach the table of the Lord at each Mass. We hear the voices of men, women and children in our responses. Our singing resonates our lives. Our buildings and art speak to the presence of the divine in our location, in our dialect of place and grace.

We find and witness to the mystery of church in the community gathered at the Sunday Eucharist, a single body united from bishop to presbyter to deacon to faithful to catechumen. It is in this collage of prayer and worship that we witness the love of God for all creation.

Our witness is not one turned to the past. Our popular devotions are being refreshed, though this is an area that could do with attention. The Constitution focused on the liturgy and liturgical rites, without a corresponding review of the life of devotions. Yet there is an ongoing synergy between our inner prayer, communal worship and the reality of the world around us. We have a strong sense that the presence of God is available in all creation, and further, that our respect for creation reflects our adoration of the triune creator. We are living within a season of creation.

The more we reflect the significance of our gathering in Christ and the Spirit as a community, the more we turn towards those who are on the margins of our own community and on the margins of the human community. We seek that our liturgical life may enrich all people, not further entrench some in poverty and injustice. Our nourishing in the Eucharist feeds us for the Christian tasks of dialogue, reconciliation, and peacemaking. The divine feast of the Eucharist, the divine mercy of

reconciliation, and the divine healing of anointing enjoin us to ensure that no one goes hungry, no one is denied mercy, no one is left unhealed.

For 60 years the Constitution has led us as we recognise that worship of the threefold God is the mission of the church. It is worship in body, mind, culture, language. It is worship amidst the hopes and joys, the grief and anguish. It is worship that cannot but hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. It is worship that exhibits the grace and peace of Christ present in and through his church. It is worship in the Spirit.



Professor Gerard Moore, Principal of BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education, has a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the

Catholic University of America, along with numerous publications.

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

Revisiting *Sacrosanctum Concilium*



The implementation of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (SC) produced a library of new ritual books, explanatory documents, refinements, educative formation, and training requirements to enable the Church's proper celebration of the liturgy. Marking 60 years since SC's promulgation offers a chance to revisit some aspects of the liturgical reform that remain in need of attention. Rereading SC#11 reminds us that for the liturgy to produce its full effects, the faithful must come to it "with proper dispositions", their "minds attuned to their voices", and ready to "cooperate with divine grace lest they receive it in vain". All who have freely

accepted God's invitation to celebrate are called to attend to the liturgy long before arriving at church and once there, to cultivate an attitude of 'real presence' so that we celebrate with our whole selves, body, mind, and spirit fully focused on glorifying God and becoming holy in God's presence. This entails surrendering to the work of the Spirit by sublimating personal preferences and becoming one with the body of Christ, transformed sacramentally into God's holy people primed for service in the world.

Proper formation helps us to go beyond simply carrying out our celebrations validly and licitly according to the

precepts of the official ritual books, and to become attuned to the liturgy's beauty, wonder, mystery, unity, and true purpose as the celebration itself forms us in joy and in communion – as Pope Francis teaches in *Desiderio Desideravi* #62.

It is worth remembering SC#29's call for those undertaking liturgical ministries to do so with "with sincere piety and decorum", and SC#30's instruction for the assembly not to be passive, but "to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalms, antiphons, and songs..., actions, gestures, and bodily attitudes" and appropriate silence. Recalling SC#48's description of the people of God participating "conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration" as they "offer themselves" to be "drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all", remains a worthy aim to which all Catholics should aspire.



Prof Clare V Johnson, Director, ACU Centre for Liturgy Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology

Faculty of Theology and Philosophy

Engage our expertise

Online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

ACU Centre for Liturgy's online training program for **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** is an innovative and comprehensive five-week program incorporating live Zoom classes, extensive online learning resources, and interaction with your parish priest and a local practicum to prepare you well for this special ministry. This rich and engaging program is run multiple times a year and is supported by the Bishops Commission for Liturgy.

Visit acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy for future dates and enrolment.

Parish training and formation workshops

ACU Centre for Liturgy offers a variety of specialised training and formation workshops for parish ministers and liturgical musicians. We can also provide detailed advice and specific strategies to improve liturgical celebrations in your parish through a comprehensive liturgy or liturgical music audit.

Professional development for teachers and religious education leaders

We tailor workshops and professional development sessions for schools and Catholic education offices to extend knowledge of liturgical celebrations and sacramental preparation.

Develop your skills as a presider at liturgy

Clergy can engage in our specialised professional development sessions on a range of topics from presidential singing, to the art of presiding at worship, and the craft of preaching.

Bring our experts to you

Our academics and specialists are available to deliver keynote addresses, public lectures and conference workshops designed to meet the needs of your organisation or event.

Study liturgy and sacramental theology

You can study academic courses or undertake higher degree research in liturgical studies and sacramental theology through ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.

Contact us at CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au for further information.

Contact us

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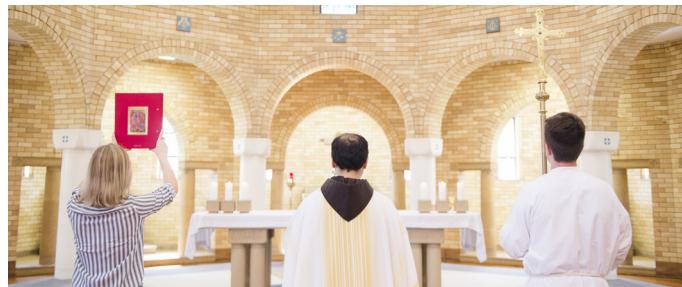
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Professor Clare V. Johnson, Director

Dr Paul Taylor, Assistant Director

Mrs Cathy Murrowood, Liturgy Educator

Ms Maryanne Hemsley, Administrative Officer



The Liturgy Nexus and Liturgy Nexus for Schools

The Liturgy Nexus and Liturgy Nexus for Schools are online subscription-based closed networks run by the ACU Centre for Liturgy and designed for conversation on liturgical issues, resource sharing and problem solving. The Liturgy Nexus links postgraduate-qualified liturgists, current students of liturgy, and those working in a liturgy-related profession, such as liturgical architecture, art or music. Membership is granted to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. The Liturgy Nexus for Schools links those preparing liturgical celebrations in school communities. To apply for membership or associate membership, depending on your qualification level, visit our website. Membership costs \$30 per year (not pro-rata), renewable on or before 1 March each year.

Support our work in rural and low-income parishes

You can support the crucial work of the ACU Centre for Liturgy by making a donation (tax-deductable over \$2) through the **Give Now** portal on our website. ACU is a not-for-profit institution, and 100 per cent of your gift will be utilised to provide formative education in liturgy and sacraments in areas of need. Endowments, bequests, and gifts in kind are welcome.

Board of Advisors:

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Sister Professor Julia A Upton RSM, St John's University, New York

Mr Steven C Warner, Founder and Director Emeritus of the Notre Dame Folk Choir, Associate Director of the Notre Dame-Newman Centre in Dublin, Ireland

ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY

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