

**Blessed John Henry Newman Parish – Warrington**  
where heart speaks to heart

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE EUCHARIST AT MASS**



The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf. *1 Corinthians 10: 16-17*

## **AT MASS**

**Appropriate Dress** - Please ensure that you are dressed neatly so that other members of the congregation do not form the impression that you are casual about this wonderful ministry.

**At the Sign of Peace** approach the sanctuary with the other ministers using the ramp and bow to the altar before taking a position either side of the tabernacle.

## **DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION**

Usually you will be distributing Holy Communion from the chalice. Two ministers will be stationed either side of the church.

Hand the chalice to the communicant saying "The blood of Christ". It is good if you can make eye contact with each communicant and a smile is not out of place.

Use the cloth (purificator) to wipe the chalice deftly before each communicant.

### **Blessing an adult or child not receiving Holy Communion**

Use a simple formula such as: "May the Lord Jesus bless you with his peace and love." This is a prayer invoking Jesus' blessing and will not be confused with a formal liturgical blessing.

If someone approaches who you know is not a Catholic do not refuse them communion unless you are convinced that they are deliberately showing disrespect to the sacrament. It is not the responsibility of the Eucharistic Minister to make decisions about another person's motives and disposition in seeking Holy Communion.

## **What if I drop a host or spill from the chalice?**

Stay calm, accidents do happen and other people are reassured when we ourselves remain calm.

If you drop a host please gently bend down and pick it up. Either consume it yourself immediately or set it apart in the communion dish (ciborium) for later consumption.

Any contents spilled from the chalice should be wiped up by using the (purificator) another cloth might then be placed over the spot to be washed after Mass. If a replacement cloth is required go to the sacristy. The cloth used for wiping up spillages should be rinsed in water after Mass.

**If anything happens to worry or perplex you** please don't keep it to yourself. Talk with Fr Peter or Deacon John.



## From a Sermon by Cesarius of Arles

I have a question for you,  
brothers and sisters.  
Which do you think more  
important - the word of  
God or the body of  
Christ?

If you want to answer  
correctly, you must tell  
me that the word of God  
is no less important than  
the body of Christ.

How careful we are,  
when the body of Christ  
is distributed to us, not  
to let any bit of it fall to  
the ground from our  
hand!

But we should be just as  
careful not to let slip  
from our hearts the  
word of God that is  
addressed to us.

## A Prayer in Preparation for Distributing Holy Communion

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
King of the Universe:  
You have sent your Son  
to become one of us,  
Jesus Christ,  
our brother and our saviour.

By his sacrifice on the Cross  
you free us from sin and death,  
In the Eucharist  
we share in this sacrifice  
by receiving his Body and Blood

Father, send your Spirit into my heart  
to guide me as I prepare to assist  
with the distribution of Holy  
Communion  
and help me to minister faithfully  
to your people.

Open their hearts  
to receive the Bread of Life,  
and the Cup of Eternal Salvation,  
that together  
we may praise your name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen