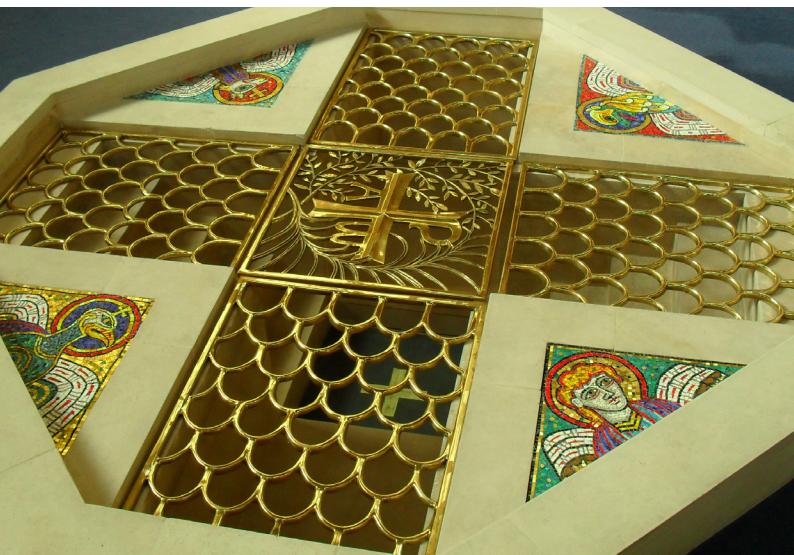


Newsletter

Issue 21

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Baptismal font, Catholic Parish Church St. Agatha in Kimratshofen

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Speaking of Liturgy podcast
 Every two weeks a new podcast featuring a local or international guest presenter is available for download via your podcast provider.

Online training programs - enrol now for 2025

Our next online training program for **Ministers of the Word** will commence on 24 February 2025. Sign up to secure your spot and join our highly successful program so that you are ready to proclaim God's Word at the Easter Triduum and beyond. Those seeking training to become **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** can register now for this exceptional online training program, which will commence in February 2025. See our website for details and to enrol.

Coming in 2025

In 2025 the Centre will provide specialised training for those taking **Holy Communion to the sick and homebound**. Those who have completed our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion online training program can register for the additional modules as a stand-alone extension program – and those who have not yet completed our EMHC training program can register to complete both programs in succession.

Find out more

Visit acu.edu.au/centre-for-liturgy

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcoming young Christians into God's family is always a moment of great joy for the Church as we celebrate new members joining the Body of Christ. The Church has practised infant baptism as "a rule of immemorial tradition" (*Pastoralis Actio*, 4) and has long taught that this first Christian sacrament is vital to infants as they are welcomed into the People of God and the gateway to personal salvation is opened for them (PA 12). Though young children cannot speak of their faith personally, they are baptised into the faith of the Church which is communicated to them and professed by their parents and godparents in the rite of baptism and ideally will develop in them as a result of a Catholic upbringing (PA 15). Baptism as a sign and a cause of faith (PA 18) brings interior enlightenment to the neophyte as the light of Christ shines forth to guide their path in life. Celebrating infant baptisms at Sunday Mass is a sign and a reminder of the gratuitousness of God's love and the unbounded offer of filial adoption made by God to every human person regardless of their age, capacity, or stage of life.

Exemplifying best practice, Fr Paul Turner writes of how to celebrate infant baptisms well, emphasising the importance of drawing not only the family but the entire assembly into this special celebration of faith. Fr Tony Doran focuses on how to prepare parents and godparents for infant baptism by involving them in the organisation of the baptismal liturgy and through that process, engaging them in catechesis on its fundamental symbols and prayers. I encourage your consideration of these offerings to enrich the process of growing God's family in faith.

Professor Clare V. Johnson

Director, ACU Centre for Liturgy



Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy



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NEWS AND RECENT EVENTS

We are delighted to extend our sincere congratulations to Rev Canon Dr Michael Wallace who recently completed his PhD at ACU on inculturation of the liturgical year in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Prof Clare Johnson taught an enjoyable and informative intensive unit on 'THLS606 Celebrating Liturgy Today: Exploring the Ritual Enactment of Faith' for a highly engaged group of ACU postgraduate students and professional learners online in July.

Prof Johnson also prepared and directed liturgies for the General Assembly of the Association of South-East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities with Mass on 21 August at St Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney with Dr Taylor playing the organ, and Mass on 22 August at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney presided over by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP.

Prof Johnson facilitated a professional learning day on prayer for the staff of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools' Western Region Office in July and engaged with dozens of educators from across Melbourne at four regional MACS 'Fanning the Flames' workshop days on liturgy and creating liturgical spaces in August and September in Werribee, Ringwood, Dingley, and Moonee Ponds, co-presenting with Dr Paul Taylor for the final two days.

Prof Johnson and Dr Taylor prepared the liturgy and directed the music for the Newman Mass co-hosted by ACU and UNDA, presided at by His Excellency Archbishop Charles Balvo, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia at ACU Melbourne Chapel, on 9 October prior to the Annual Newman Symposium delivered by Rev Prof Stephen Morgan, Rector of the University of Saint Joseph in Macau and Executive Secretary of ASEACCU. Rev Dr Christopher Willcock SJ composed a beautiful new anthem which was premiered at the Newman Mass.

FROM OUR BOARD OF ADVISORS

For more than 45 years, I've been devoted to the liturgical arts, most of them spent with college-age sacred music choirs. But with this came the great privilege of collaborating with national and international centres for liturgy: not just at Notre Dame, but in Ireland, Canada, and Australia as well.

Following Vatican II, liturgy centres have become indispensable beacons in the ecclesial landscape. With parishes suffering, both vocationally and financially, few can afford robust liturgical resources that provide invaluable guidance for catechesis and praxis. And their reach – over whole nations at times – is indispensable to the success of parochial celebrations.

Why are they needed? I will cite two sources. From Luke's gospel, we still echo the disciples' request: "Lord, teach us how

to pray." And from Dostoyevsky: "The world is saved by beauty." The Church cannot bring people back to the fold through guilt. But they can through the salvific, awe-inspired beauty of liturgy done well. And no place is better equipped for this task than liturgy centres.

Two thousand years later, we still need to learn how to pray. That task never ceases. And is there no more powerful way to teach than through the beauty of our tradition?



Steven C. Warner
Founder and Director
Emeritus, Notre
Dame Folk Choir
Associate Director
(retired), Newman
Centre for Faith and
Reason, Dublin,
Ireland

LITURGY SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating baptisms at Mass



Photo: Jamie O'Brien

Celebrating infant baptisms at Sunday Mass spreads the joy of birth, connects the growing family to parishioners, and alerts the community of their new responsibility: caring for this new child.

Before announcing the opening hymn, our cantor welcomes the parents by name, without giving the name of the child. The community sings one verse of the opening hymn to account for the entrance antiphon, and turns toward the door, where I stand with the parents, godparents and the child.

I make the sign of the cross but omit the greeting (*The Order of Baptism of Children* [OBC] 29 §1) – which feels awkward, but the opening address to the parents, godparents and community replaces it.

I ask the parents to disclose the name

of the child and to state what they are requesting. Most answer, "baptism", but they are free to say something more (OBC 7), such as, "the fullness of life in Christ", "a community of people who will share their faith", or "a place where my child will grow in prayer and service". What do they want from God's Church?

The priest questions the parents and godparents about their intent, and they join him in signing the child with the cross. The singing resumes – either Psalm 85:7-9ab (Ps 84 in Australia), as OBC 42 suggests, or another song. We often sing the remaining verses of the opening hymn. The cross and candles lead the procession, followed by the parents, godparents and the child, ahead of the one who carries the book of the gospels, and of the priest.



The priest reverences the altar and goes to his chair. As the processional hymn concludes, the Gloria and Collect follow, but the Penitential Act is omitted (29 §1).

For the readings, OBC 29 §2a-b permits special passages from the Lectionary's Ritual Mass and a homily based on them. We usually hear the readings and homily of the day.

The Creed is omitted (29 §2c), so the Universal Prayer comes next (29 §2d). We incorporate some but not all of the recommended petitions (47), and we remove several of the regular weekend petitions.

The cantor chants the litany of the saints, adding any pertinent patron of the child, parish or place (48). During the singing,

we lead the baptismal party to the font, as happens during the Easter Vigil (Roman Missal 41). The OBC calls for the prayer of exorcism and anointing to precede this procession (49-52), but we find it logistically better to move into position for all the baptismal rites.

Among the options for the blessing of water, I choose OBC 224 because of its brevity and engagement with the congregation. The longer prayer is beautiful (54) but does not elicit participation as well.

For the renewal of baptismal promises, I invite the entire community to answer with the parents and godparents. For the baptism, one of the parents holds the child, while the priest pours water – or the priest holds and immerses the child three times while reciting the formula. Our musicians lead an acclamation to highlight the moment. The remaining ceremonies continue: the chrism, the white garment, the candle, and the optional ephphatha. Mass proceeds with the Preparation of the Gifts (29 §4).

For the eucharistic prayer, the Missal's "Ritual Mass for the Conferral of Baptism" offers the priest a special commemoration for the newly baptised. I mark it with a ribbon so I can flip to it at

the appropriate time. Other priests make a copy and attach it to the proper page in the eucharistic prayer.

To introduce the Lord's Prayer, OBC 68 gives the celebrant latitude to use words that anticipate the child's future confirmation and first communion. He may abbreviate these yet capture their intent.

The solemn ritual blessing (105, 247-249) replaces the usual one (29 §5). It provides a lovely conclusion to the ceremony, especially if the parents take turns holding their child.

Many people fear that baptisms at Mass just make Mass longer. However, with careful planning, they need not take more than a few additional minutes. Besides, when any ceremony is done well, time will fly – as will the hearts of those who receive the privilege of celebrating baptism with the whole parish community.



Rev. Dr Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, USA and a prolific author

of books and articles on liturgy and sacraments.

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

Preparation of Parents and Godparents in the *Rite of Baptism for Children*



Saint Mary of the Presentation Catholic Church (Indiana)

It is a common misconception that when parents and godparents are asked to renew their baptismal promises in the celebration of baptism of children they do so because the children themselves are too young to make their own baptismal promises.

The reality is a little different. Children are baptised into the faith professed by their parents and godparents. As a child grows to maturity, parents and godparents have the responsibility to help their child grow and profess their own faith.

Baptism preparation, therefore, needs to focus on helping parents and godparents deepen and enrich their own faith. A useful way into this preparation is the liturgy itself. The liturgy of baptism is redolent with primary symbols of our Christian faith: water, oil, and light. Catechesis on these symbols can help parents and godparents come to a richer understanding of our participation in the resurrection of Jesus, celebrated in baptism and now manifest in the life of their child. The various prayers used, too, provide some of the Church's richest reflections on God's gift of life, for example the Prayer of Blessing of Water is a most beautiful meditation on

water in the history of salvation. If you're talking about the lingering effect of being baptised into Christ as priest, prophet and king, have a vessel with Chrism present for parents and godparents to smell this perfumed oil with which Christ will anoint their newly baptised child. The Rite of Ephphatha is an opportunity for parents to share their hopes and dreams for their child as they grow to receive God's word and proclaim their faith in the Risen Christ.

A baptism preparation which is a deep dive into the symbols and prayers of the liturgy of baptism, will help parents and godparents to renew and deepen their own faith.



Rev Anthony J Doran, BA Hons *La Trobe*, BTheol MCD, GradDipEd (Sec) ACU, MTS MCD is a priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He is a member of the

National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council, a Past President of the *Australian Academy of Liturgy*, and a member of *Societas Liturgica*.

Engage our expertise

Online training programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word

The ACU Centre for Liturgy's online training programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word are innovative and comprehensive short programs incorporating live Zoom classes, extensive online learning resources, interaction with your parish priest and a local practicum to prepare you well for these special liturgical ministries. These rich and engaging programs are run multiple times a year and are 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 in-person 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 prayer, 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 to 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.

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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.



Catholic Parish Church of St. Agatha in Kimratshofen

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.

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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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