Remaining Faithful
A community formation process for Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist

Overview

February 2017
Initial Formation

Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist (SCAE) began in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in response to a real need in local communities when they were unable to celebrate eucharist on Sunday. Bishop Michael Malone gathered a committee to reflect on what was happening, explore the issue and develop Diocesan Guidelines. This was a significant pastoral issue across Australia and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference responded by developing and issuing national directives.

The initial formation for Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist (SCAE), entitled ‘Remaining Faithful’ is offered in response to requests from parishes or regions.

Vision and Mission

Vision

Communities remaining faithful to worship and mission
when the celebration of Sunday eucharist is not always possible.

Mission

To assist parish communities,
particularly, members of the assembly, Lay Liturgical Leaders and other liturgical ministers,
to develop their understanding of the theological, pastoral and liturgical issues
associated with Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of the Eucharist
by an exploration of the key documents and rites.

Values

God’s presence with us – revealing God’s self in our experience and our Catholic Tradition.

Faith as a life-long journey into an ever-deepening relationship with Christ and each other; a relationship lived each day and expressed in worship and mission.

The baptismal identity of the community.

The life of the community – worship and mission – drawn from Sunday eucharist.

The life and ministry of the ordained.

Collaborative ministry

emerging from baptism

aware of and responding to the community’s need

discerning and calling members of the community to ministry according to their gifts and circumstances

authorising ministers to work with the pastor and other parish leadership

informed and reflective – working from principle to practice

operating through team ministry which respects and builds on the strengths of different ministers

participating in the resolution of pastoral and liturgical issues

supported by parish structures and systems and nourished by ongoing formation

nurturing the parish for mission.

Transparency.
Formation Goals

**Foundational goals:**

Remaining Faithful seeks to assist participants to:

- deepen their faith in and relationship with Jesus the Christ;
- deepen their appreciation of their baptismal identity with its rights and responsibilities, particularly in relationship to *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist*;
- deepen their understanding and experience of eucharist and *Sunday Celebrations of the Word (with Communion)*;
- become ‘wise’ ministers who are constantly deepening their understanding of the issues, principles and questions that inform our practice of SCAE;
- reflect on the theory, practice and issues of collaborative ministry, particularly in relation to *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist*.

**Specific goals:**

Remaining Faithful seeks to assist participants to -

1) articulate their questions and needs in relation to Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist (SCAE) and the ministry of the Lay Liturgical Leader (LLL);
2) engage in a process involving reading, discussion and input which draws on the wisdom of the group;
3) identify the key resources available to the parish community and LLLs;
4) deepen their understanding of SCAE by reviewing the key documents;
5) articulate and explore their understanding of key issues and questions which may concern some members of the community;
6) explore the ecclesial and liturgical context of SCAE and how this shapes our *Celebrations of the Word and the Hours* and the ministry of the LLL;
7) examine the ritual book with particular focus on the rite to be used by the worshipping communities;
8) deepen their understanding of liturgical texts and symbols so they are able to choose the most appropriate texts for the worship of the community;
9) practise liturgical leadership (and other ministries).
10) assist with planning for the implementation and ongoing support of SCAE.

**Target Group for Formation**

All members of the community are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Remaining Faithful formation:

- All members of the Assembly;
- Lay Liturgical Leaders and those discerning their call to this ministry;
- Other liturgical ministers who will be involved in SCAE, including members of the parish liturgy team;
- Parish Leadership – priests, pastoral associates, PPC/RPC/PPT members.

Participants will be invited to read and explore Church documents and the Instruction and ritual chosen by the parish community.
Preparation

The preparation required is determined by the parish’s need: whether it is introducing *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist*, or seeking formation for new ministers and/or updating existing ministers.

In general preparation for the formation involves facilitators working with Parish Leadership to:

- identify those to be invited to participate in the formation
- set dates, times, venues to suit the community
- publicise the formation, extending an invitation to all members of the Assembly
- organise the process for participants to register and access pre-reading
- organise hospitality for each formation session

Outline

**Introductory Gathering**

The need for this meeting will be determined by the community in consultation with the formation facilitator(s).

**Part I: Focusing on the Documents**

Part I explores and develops participants’ understanding of *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist* through an examination of the key documents;

- References in other relevant documents

These documents are explored through four windows -

- Theological and pastoral principles
- Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist [SCAE]
- The Lay Leader
- The Ritual

Participants are given the documents as pre-reading at least two weeks prior to the start of the formation process.

**Break for parish work**

Time is taken between Part I and II to enable the parish community to engage in the Pastoral Planning required to proceed with implementing and/or renewing *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist*. The document study in Part I provides the information required for this. This planning may include:

- determining the need for SCAE: this might include review of the Mass schedule; consideration of the availability of clergy and the demands on them; regular and/or irregular occurrences and proposed scheduling;
- awareness-raising and formation of the whole community about SCAE and the pastoral reality of the parish/region that indicates the need for SCAE. Awareness raising might include preaching at Sunday Mass, provision of reading material and/or bulletin inserts; conversation with parish groups;
• determining how the community will discern and call people to formation for the ministry of Lay Liturgical Leadership for SCAE;
• reviewing the liturgical options for SCAE and determining which ritual form the community will use;
• determining whom to invite to Part II of the formation;
• considering the organisational structures required to ensure the ongoing efficient and effective running of SCAE, for example: communication strategies for the community at large and ministers involved; overall co-ordination including lines of responsibility, accountability and connection with parish leadership; ongoing support and mentoring of ministers; ministry review; identifying, calling and mentoring new ministers;
• consideration of other issues which may arise in Part I of the formation and are listed on the ‘Questions for Community Discernment’ resource sheet. (available on the diocesan website)

Part II: Befriending the Rite
Part II situates SCAE within its ecclesial and liturgical context. This context forms the foundation for a thorough exploration of the ritual to be used in the parish/region and some liturgical practice, the latter as time allows.

Pre-reading, including articles on Church and liturgy and the Instruction for the rite to be studied, is given to participants at least two weeks prior to the start of Part II.

Certification and Authorisation

Attendance
Remaining Faithful is a face-to-face, community based and team focused formation process. Everyone is welcome, even if it is only possible to attend one session. However for those who feel a call to liturgical ministry, particularly but not exclusively the ministry of Lay Liturgical Leadership, attendance is critical. Due to the condensed nature of the formation process, every session covers essential information. Therefore to miss one session has significant implications for ministry. Those exercising ministry or who may be called to do so are therefore encouraged to make every effort to be at all sessions.

Formal attendance records are maintained.

Christian Ministry: Integrity in the Service of the Church
Parishioners serving in any ministry in parishes and the diocese are required to complete the foundational course Christian Ministry: Integrity in the Service of the Church. This is provided by the diocese as part of its duty of care for any person exercising ministry. In particular important for Lay Liturgical Leaders and Lay Preachers who are authorised by the Bishop.

This course is scheduled at least once a year. Information is available in the diocesan website.
Certification
Participants who attendance regularly will receive from the diocese a **Certificate of Achievement: Remaining Faithful** and a transcript outlining the content of formation.

A **Statement of Participation** will be given to those who do not receive a Certificate.

Authorisation
Parishioners who are called to a liturgical ministry that requires the authorisation of the Bishop, must in the first instance have received, or qualify to receive, the **Certificate of Achievement: Remaining Faithful**.

Currently the ministry of Lay Liturgical Leadership for *Sunday Celebrations in Anticipation of Eucharist* requires the Bishop’s authorisation. In future authorisation may be required for some other liturgical ministries.

Timeframe
**Orientation:** If required
Part I: 4 x 4 hour sessions
Part II: 6 x 4 hours sessions

Ideally, 4 hour sessions run from 9.00am – 1.00pm on the day that suits the community.

This time frame is recommended based on past experience and principles of adult faith formation. It means people are fresh in the morning and they leave with still half a day free.
Some Resources for SCAE

Primary Sources

   
   This document is found in the *Pastoral Handbook for the Diocese of Australia.* (See below)

   
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6. *Sunday Celebration of the Word and the Hours (Ritual Book).*
   
   Liturgical/ritual resources also available on *LabOra Worship.*

Secondary Sources

GENERAL


**LITURGICAL LEADERSHIP**


**LITURGICAL PREPARATION**


**LITURGY**