

Public Worship with Communion by Extension

Diocesan Guidelines: Bishop Paul Bayes Feb 2016



Please note that in using this service, our Diocese holds to the national guidelines set out by the House of Bishops. In a nutshell the requirements of the House are as follows:

1. **Explicit permission must be obtained from Bishop Richard or from me on each and every occasion for the use of this rite.** This should be sought in good time. Please contact Bishop Richard's office in the first instance.
2. This permission should relate to specific pastoral circumstances, thus emphasizing the exceptional nature of this ministry. ([Further details are to be found in the full Guidelines issued by the House of Bishops](#))
3. In parishes or cures in which Public Worship with Communion by Extension has been authorized, care should be taken to ensure that a Sunday celebration of Holy Communion continues to take place regularly in each church. Public Worship with Communion by Extension will normally take place on Sundays and Principal Holy Days. Exceptionally, the rite may be appropriate on other occasions.
4. **This service is led only by a person specifically authorized by the bishops;** this may be a deacon, Reader or other lay person who has received appropriate training. Those who have permission under Canon B12 may share in the giving of communion.
5. If the minister is a deacon, Reader or lay worker authorized under Canon E7, the appropriate vesture is to be worn in accordance with our Canons.
6. Care should be taken to ensure that those who play any part in the administration of Communion by Extension treat the elements in a seemly and dignified manner and observe the rubrics in the rite provided.
7. Proper provision must be made for the consecrated bread and wine to be brought to the church from the celebration of Holy Communion in a similarly seemly and dignified manner. They should be placed upon the Holy Table and covered with a clean white cloth.
8. Proper care should be taken to ensure as far as possible that the consecrated elements are adequate to meet the needs of the congregation. If the bread and wine prove insufficient for the number of communicants, there can be no supplementary consecration in the course of this service.
9. Communion by extension should not be seen as a way of retaining a pattern of mid-week Eucharistic services during an interregnum. Churchwardens and Area Deans will need to agree a realistic and sustainable pattern of celebrating Holy Communion which should include a review of how many times it is appropriate to hold these on a Sunday.