



Remain in my love
Jn 15:9

20 November 2017

Use of Data Projectors within Mass

The Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, reminds us that 'full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy'.¹

'Participation' is not defined as just speaking or singing and means more than just taking on the role of reader or those who carry the gifts. These are the 'external' ways we participate. Full, conscious and active participation also calls for 'internal' participation, as we focus on the liturgical words and actions with heart and mind. Everything we do in liturgy should enhance and uplift the sacred words and actions which take place in the three primary focal points of the Chair, the Ambo and the Altar.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' document '*And When Churches are to be Built...*' describes the purpose of data projectors as a liturgical 'aid', serving the liturgy by displaying the text of hymns but not the entire Order of Service and the readings.²

The use of the Data Projector has been a great asset in many ways over the last decade or more. However, like all technology a little bit can go a long way. When it comes to celebrating liturgy, we must be careful that the projected data does not become the main focus for the assembly.

For the assembly to fully, consciously and actively participate in the liturgy, the focus must always be the liturgical action and not the 'aids' which are only present to assist the assembly in their participation.

The attached guidelines have been produced by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I encourage every parish and school to ensure that everyone who is involved in the preparation and operation of data presentations during liturgical celebrations is familiar with these guidelines.

In addition, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission is available to provide advice, support and formation to parish and school communities in using visual display systems effectively in liturgical celebrations.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba

PO Box 756, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Tel: (+61 7) 4632 4277 • Fax: (+61 7) 4639 2251 • Email: bishop@twb.catholic.org.au • www.twb.catholic.org.au

¹ Sacrosanctum Concilium, #14

² ACBC, '*When Churches Are to Be Built...*', Liturgy Brisbane, 2014, #697