

LITURGY UPDATE

May 2012

Faith Development Services,
Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin



INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS
DUBLIN, JUNE 10-17, 2012

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

This update outlines ways in which parishes can mark the week of the International Eucharistic Congress locally. These ways are offered as *suggestions* to parish teams, pastoral councils and liturgy groups. They do not seek to replace or add an extra burden to decisions that have already been made locally. ***Parishes are invited to draw on them as suits their own situation and needs.***

For further resources see www.kandle.ie and www.iec2012.ie

MARKING THE CONGRESS IN THE PARISH

Parishes might like to mark the congress in some of the following ways.



Invite parishioners to take the Diocesan prayer card and join in praying the "Prayer for Seven Days in Seven Places" (See p. 2 page for details)



Decoration of the church grounds & local parish schools with papal bunting



Use of papal flag, congress candle & congress banner where a parish has one



Creation of a particular prayer space for the week (See p. 2 for suggestions)



A Parish Holy Hour during the week (See p.3 for a model outline)



A Parish Pilgrim Walk – Communion with Christ and with One Another on the Journey



Sunday Liturgies – use of Congress prayer & hymn, Prayer of the Faithful, reflection, Corpus Christi Procession (See p. 4 for more details)

A PRAYER FOR SEVEN DAYS IN SEVEN PLACES

WHAT'S IT ABOUT... Each day of the International Eucharistic Congress we are inviting all parishioners to pray a newly composed Kildare and Leighlin prayer. This prayer will be given to parishioners on a take home prayer card on the weekend liturgies of June 9-10. The prayer card also serves as a souvenir of the congress and can continue to be used beyond the week of the congress.

Parishioners are invited to pray the prayer, either individually or with their family, in a different place on each of the days. It can readily be prayed by a group by substituting "I" for "we". By taking on this invitation within the parish we hope that parishioners will grow in their appreciation of how: 1) *Jesus is with us in all the moments and places of our lives;* 2) *We are part of a wider family of faith, all trying to live out that faith as best we can and hopefully supporting one another.*

THE PRAYER: The prayer has been composed in such a way as to guide the individual through an experience of prayer beginning and ending with the sign of the cross.

The Seven Places of Prayer

People are invited to pray the prayer in the following locations over the week.

Monday: At my bed

Tuesday: At the door of my home

Wednesday: On a journey on foot/ by car...

Thursday: At work/ at school/ at home/ at the day care centre...

Friday: At a cemetery or the grave of a loved one

Saturday: Around the table with family

Sunday: At church before or after Mass

CELEBRATING OUR MEMORIES OF EUCHARIST:

A SUGGESTION OF A PRAYER SPACE FOR CONGRESS
WITHIN THE CHURCH OR PARISH CENTRE

PHOTO MEMORIES OF PARTICULAR CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST: Parishioners could be invited to bring family photos to the church, ahead of the week of congress, of important family occasions linked to the celebration of Mass. For example weddings, First Communions, Confirmations, anniversaries... These could be pinned to a display stand. A "meal" table might be placed near the photo display stand.

THE TABLE: At Mass we come to the Table of the Lord to be nourished by his Body and Blood. The table of the Altar is not the only place we gather. While we gather there as a community, we gather at other tables to eat with our families and friends. Just like the Altar, we gather at table in times of celebration and in times of sadness. Gathering to break bread in this way is very powerful. We come to the table with different stories and histories yet we are truly present there, in that moment, in that sharing.

When we come to the Table of the Lord we are no longer just in communion with one another. We find ourselves now as equals at his table, coming to be nourished, in

Required materials:

- Display Stand & pins.
- A table – round or square
- Table cloth (perhaps linking with the liturgical calendar)
- Stools - inviting people to take a place at the table
- Plates, glasses, a jug or wine decanter.
- Bread (perhaps a loaf)
- Grapes – linked to the wine
- Any other food items you feel appropriate.
- The diocesan prayer card– that people can take away.

Arising questions:

What is my place at the table at home or in the parish? Can the table of the home be a sacred place for prayer and reflection? Do all feel welcome at the table?

A PARISH HOLY HOUR WITH EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

A parish may wish to schedule a Holy Hour during the time of the Congress. Regardless of when it is celebrated, the simple pattern below might form the basis of the prayer. This can be led by a lay minister of the parish. In the absence of an ordained minister, the Blessed Sacrament can be exposed and reposed by an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

It might also draw on prayers and reflections specific to the Congress theme of the day and the Gospel text of the day.

The daily theme might also suggest an invitation to particular ministry groups in the parish to very consciously gather for this time. Creating a prayerful atmosphere and inviting different people to lead music and readings will all add to the prayer's richness.

Daily themes & Gospel readings at Congress

Monday:	Baptism <i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>
Tuesday:	Marriage & the Family <i>Matthew 5:13-16</i>
Wednesday:	Priesthood and Ministry <i>Matthew 5:17-19</i>
Thursday:	Reconciliation <i>Matthew 5:20-26</i>
Friday:	Suffering and Healing <i>John 19:31-37</i>
Saturday:	Mary <i>Luke 2:41-51</i>

COME & SAY HELLO!

If you are going to Congress please drop by and see us at the Kildare & Leighlin exhibition stand at the RDS - #197

A MODEL OF PRAYER

Gathering Hymn during Exposition: People stand. The Congress Hymn or other suitable hymn can be sung (during which time the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar).

Opening Greeting: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...
On this day we gather in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament very aware of the International Eucharistic Congress taking place in Dublin. We pray that the congress will bear fruit in the life of the Irish Church and in our lives. We unite our prayer before the Blessed Sacrament with the congress theme of today which is _____ (see box). Let us carry this theme with us in our prayer in the presence of the Lord. *(At this point a reflection directly related to the theme of the day might be read by a reader, for which people are seated.)*

Chant and quiet prayer: (for example Bless the Lord My Soul/ Jesus Christ you are my Life/ Ubi Caritas/ Adoramus te Domine) followed by quiet time of about 20 mins

Gospel Reading: Of the day, (invite people to stand for this reading).

Chant and Quiet Prayer: Again of about 20 minutes

Congress Prayer: Recited by all if possible (invite people to stand for this prayer).

Closing Hymn during Reposition: For example, Be Thou My Vision/Lord of all Hopefulness/ I am the Bread of Life/ Gift of Finest Wheat...

FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST – SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PARISH

OPENING PROCESSION: The parish congress candle could be lit and carried in the opening procession and placed within the sanctuary area or a specific prayer space.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL: (*Intro.*) Now that we have heard God's Word and proclaimed our faith, we pray in communion with one another for what we need to live as God's people.

1. For all who minister in the name of the Church in Ireland that their work for renewal and the building up of faith will give nourishment and life to all members of the Church.

Lord hear us.

2. For each one of us who through Baptism are called to live in communion with Christ and with one another - that, even though we are many, we may become one body through our sharing in the Eucharist. Lord, hear us.

3. For all from far and near who will make the pilgrim journey to the International Eucharistic Congress this week that they will be enriched by their participation and sustained on their on-going journey of faith. Lord, hear us.

4. For young people sitting exams that they have the support and love they need at this time and for all young people that they may find a joyful faith in their families, Lord, hear us.

5. For all who are sick in body, mind or spirit– that they will recognise the healing presence of Jesus in the loving actions of family, neighbours and carers. Lord, hear us.

6. For our family members, neighbours, friends and all who have died: that God who gave them the gift of life may bring them to the fullness of life in communion with Christ and all the saints. Lord, hear us.

(*Conc*) Father, hear the prayers which we make, inspired by your Holy Spirit, and grant what we need through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: Congress hymn – “Though we are Many”

POST COMMUNION REFLECTION: Congress Prayer

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION: At the end of Mass a Eucharistic procession might take place according to local practice. The procession would include the Blessed Sacrament, candles, incense and the canopy. *As this is a “Do This In Memory” Sunday, children from this year’s First Communion class could be invited to wear their communion clothes and form part of the procession.* A hymn might accompany the procession and it would suitably conclude with Benediction before reposing the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.

DIOCESAN PRAYER CARD: Have volunteers distribute the prayer cards as people leave.

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