



12 December 2022

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION IN 2022/3

Thank you indeed for volunteering as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is required when there is a shortage of ordinary ministers, that is, the clergy. You will have the great task of bringing our most precious gift, the Blessed Eucharist, to our people, especially to the sick. Please always bear in mind the Lord's words: "You visited me" (Matt 25:36). You are bringing Christ to Christ!

At Mass, we usually require no more than one (1) Extraordinary Minister to assist the priest. For reasons of public health, we do not envisage the return of Holy Communion from the chalice in the foreseeable future. Sometimes there may be other members of the clergy present at Mass who will be the ones to distribute Holy Communion. If there is also a deacon or more than one priest at Mass, please remain in your seat. At the beginning of the *Lamb of God*, please retrieve the ciborium from the tabernacle and place it on the corporal (the square cloth at the centre of the altar), remembering to genuflect before and after handling the ciborium; then sanitise your hands. If someone in the line asks for a blessing, please hold a host up and say without moving the host: "May the Lord Jesus bless you." After Holy Communion, please purify your fingers in the lavabo bowl and sanitise your hands. Then wait for the priest to give you the ciborium to return to the tabernacle unless he wishes to do this himself.

Extraordinary Ministers are especially needed for our visits to the sick and homebound. Please make yourself known to the priest in the sacristy well before the beginning of the Mass and arrange for a pyx to be prepared for you with the number of hosts needed for your visit¹. Then, after receiving Holy Communion from the priest yourself, make your way discreetly to the back of the altar. The priest will give you the pyx with the consecrated hosts in it. You may then return to your seat, remembering to make no further reverence to the altar or tabernacle while the Lord is with you. When you visit people who are sick or homebound, please follow "Appendix B: The Ordinary Rite of Communion to the Sick" in the book, *Ministers of Life* (pp25-32)². Please consume any hosts which you have not distributed and return the pyx.

Please familiarise yourself with the Parish's covid and safeguarding policies³. Once they become available, the Archdiocese's safeguarding training and the Parish's annual training will also be required. These necessary steps help to keep everyone safe and supported.

Please contact us as you may need. We are here to support you and address your questions.

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¹ Further details on obtaining a Pyx are contained in the accompanying document on that topic, available at <https://www.stdominics.org.au/devotional.html>

² Copy of this document available at <https://www.stdominics.org.au/devotional.html>

³ Relevant COVID and Safeguarding documents are also available at <https://www.stdominics.org.au/devotional.html>