guidelines for the use of

PROJECTORS & SCREENS

during the

CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY

Many parishes use projector and screen to provide the text of prayers, responses and hymns for the people at Mass.

Some parishes have requested guidance from the Liturgical Commission on the use of such technology in the liturgy. We are happy to provide this.

Technology, used well and discreetly, can enable more full and active participation of the people in the Mass.

In the Mass, the central focus is always the action of the Mass.

Any word, movement, or aid that shifts our focus away from the heart of the Mass, is a distraction.

There can be times when the colour, movement, and design on a screen, serves to focus people on projected images and words rather than on the heart of the Mass.

This brochure offers some guidance for the use of visual technology in the Liturgy of the Church.

Many of these guidelines will encourage a compromise with what technical experts suggest is ideal. However our aim is not to get the best from the technology, but to get the best from the Mass.

For the worshipping community, every aid must remain at the service of the Liturgy. We seek to enable more full and active participation in the mysteries we celebrate.

From your experience you will have your own ideas. Please let us know so that we can share these with others.

- **Project only what is essential**. Welcomes, scripture readings, images, advertisements and notices are not appropriate before, during or after Mass. The minutes before during and after Mass are a privileged time for personal prayer, preparation and thanksgiving.

- Use **white text on black background**. This enables the eye to focus more easily, and prevents a large square of bright light from becoming the focus on or near the sanctuary.

- Place the **projector out of sight**. It may be best to set the projector on the floor or at an angle to the side using a 'keystone' feature to square the image.

- Where possible, project onto a **wall rather than a screen**. Screens are never attractive and often distracting. Given that text is being projected rather than images, it is not necessary that the wall be white. If the slide background is black, imperfections in the wall will not be visible, and the natural colour of the wall will be the background colour (not black as in these images).

- Choose a **simple font**. Rather than using 'bold', enlarge the text to fill the entire screen if necessary.

- The use of different text, size and shades (white, grey and black) are more effective guides than written instructions.

- Where possible use **one stanza or verse per slide**. This means that the slide transition can be at the change of verse giving time to move to the next slide.

- **Prepare** the projector (computer, slides etc.) before people arrive for Mass. The ten minutes before Mass begins is a time for silent preparation for the Mass.

- Use a black slide between projections, instead of turning the projector on and off.

- Ensure that you have met the **copyright** requirements of all the texts that you use. This includes copyright both for each hymn or text of the Mass, and copyright for the computer software that you use.

- While the projected texts serve as a Missal for the worshippers, there is a significant difference. With a Missal, the worshipper is able to use the prayers, instructions and images as much or as little as s/he chooses. The use of projected images removes this personal choice. It is therefore important that **only what is essential** be projected, and that each image is both dignified and discreet.

In the Mass,
the central focus is always the action of the Mass.
Any word, movement, or aid that shifts our focus away from the heart of the Mass,
is a distraction.

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours, may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.

STAND

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

The Revised Order of the Mass has led to a new selection of hymnals and Missals for both adults and children. You might therefore take the opportunity to evaluate your use of technology in the Liturgy.

There are **some disadvantages** in the use of projectors and screens in the Liturgy. These include.

- The projected image becomes a significant focus, at times shifting the gaze of the people away from the central action of the Mass.

- Screens and projectors, are usually unsightly and secular in an otherwise attractive and sacred environment.

- At times external light can make it difficult to view the projected text. Window shades take away from the beauty of a Church building.

- The preparation of slides and set-up of computer and projector takes time, and if there is a failure in technology (or operator) the noble simplicity of the liturgy suffers.

- Often at a weekday Liturgy or funeral vigil a hymn can be sung from a hymnbook. Last minute decisions are not easily possible with technology.

- Projector and computer hardware and software is often more expensive than hymnbooks.

"Let the rites radiate a noble simplicity"

Constitution on the Liturgy 34

You might consider:

- Some hymnbook and Missal publishers produce an annual pew-book which includes all text, prayers and readings of the Mass for the liturgical year.

- Some parishes produce a pew-sheet for each Sunday, or a booklet for each Liturgical season. All prayers and hymns are included and the resources for this are easily available online.

Take a moment...

...to compare the two slides below

Holy, Holy,
Holy Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

Holy, Holy,
Holy Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

While creative effort has been used in the first slide, the second is more 'nobly simple.'

Note too that the background of the first slide will appear as blue, whereas in the second, the text will more discreetly appear on an 'unlit' wall.

- Does your parish or school's use of technology during Mass, at time distract from the central action of the Mass? If so, what changes can be helpfully made?

- Is the design of your church such that a screen and/or projector distracts from the beauty of the building, or the focus on the action of the Mass at Altar or Lectern?

- Does your parish / school ensure that all copyright requirements are met?

- Might a weekly or seasonal pew-sheet, or hymn book be a better choice for your parish or school liturgies?

- Each of the slides below convey the text of the Preface dialogue of the Mass. Which slide do you consider would project a more clear and dignified lead for parishioners?

Priest:	The Lord be with you
People:	And with your Spirit
Priest:	Lift up your hearts
People:	We lift them up to the Lord
Priest:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People:	It is right and just

The Lord be with you
And with your Spirit

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right and just

*All things set apart
for use in divine worship
should be truly worthy,
becoming, and beautiful,
signs and symbols
of the supernatural world.*

Sacrosanctum Concilium 122