

## Reception of Holy Communion under both kinds

As we approach the third anniversary of the first Covid lockdown, questions have been raised about the Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice. In consideration of this question, it has been noted, of course, that the diocesan Bishop is the Moderator of the Liturgy in his diocese and permission to resume distribution of Holy Communion from the Chalice lies with him, after consultation with his clergy. It has also been assumed that his decision is simply permissive.

Our received public health advice is that the covid-19 virus is still circulating in society along with the other prevalent seasonal viruses (influenza, the common cold and other seasonal infections). Whilst many people have had 3 or 4 doses of the covid-19 vaccine, the risk of infection still exists and in particular, at this time of year, the risk of combined infection with two or more of circulating viruses which could result in serious illness. It is proposed therefore to continue for the time being with Holy Communion under one kind only until the end of this winter season and its associated viruses.

Following discussions at the Bishops' Conference, a suitable time for permission to be granted for the resumption of Holy Communion received under both species would be at the Mass of the Lord's Supper in Holy Week 2023, given the theological significance of the celebration.

The Standing Committee of the Conference agreed that the time between now and then should be used for appropriate catechesis of the faithful regarding the significance of the reception of Holy Communion under either or both species. Important teaching, such as the totality of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord is received in either or both species, the personal disposition of those receiving Holy Communion, and the reverence offered to the Blessed Sacrament should be included.

For ease of reception of communion for large concelebrations of priests (such as the Chrism Mass), communion under both kinds by intinction is still recommended.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas  
3rd February 2023