

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING, SFOAO, 12 May, 2026.

MINUTES

Apologies: Kitty McKinley

Attending: Fr. Gerard, Fr. Alfred, Margie Crook, Robyn Radomski, Lily Ting, Solomon Concessio, David Dobson,

Opening prayer: Robyn

Record of last meeting: One Liturgy Committee member was concerned that her report regarding the readers for Holy Week did not appear in the minutes. An explanation and apology was given. The report had been received, but not formally included in the record of the meeting, due to an oversight. The report is included at the end of these minutes.

Business:

1. Robyn indicated that this would be her last meeting with the Liturgy Committee. She was warmly thanked by all present for her work and expertise while with the group. Robyn indicated that she would be willing to assist the committee from time to time if called upon.
2. The principal reason for the meeting was an evaluation of Holy Week liturgies, and notes were tabled to help form a basis for discussion. David will prepare a document of action points - to be held over until it is an appropriate time to use it. *The document is included with these minutes. Comments below are in addition to Action Point and are for review in a future Liturgy Committee meeting in preparation for Holy Week and Easter 2027.*
3. Palm Sunday: If there is to be a children's liturgy, it is important that they be included, even if only as observers, in the blessing of the palms. As a corollary, too, in any similar liturgical actions occurring as part of a Parish Mass.
4. Holy Thursday: There were some technical issues with the presentation of the C2000 drama. The adoration after Mass went well and was well attended. There was a significant interruption due to the intrusion of the cleaner.
5. Good Friday: Solomon was thanked and congratulated for his sterling work throughout the day. As MC for Good Friday he clarified he was mandated to cover the statues which he should have had authority for from the Liturgy Committee. The Walk of the Cross booklets were reprinted with the correct designation of "St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu" replacing the erroneous "St Peter and Paul". Making the Veneration of the Cross more fluent and somewhat quicker was a topic of discussion.
6. Easter Vigil: It may pay to check the church temperature, as some were affected by the significant warmth. Other settings of the Litany might be worth exploring.
7. Easter Sunday: Perhaps an extra Mass is necessary on this day, and at least one extra Eucharistic Minister.
8. St. Brigid's Pentecost Mass, 24th May was discussed. The school will take responsibility for the Sunday Mass. The parish garage (along the corridor beside the house) will be extra space made available should overflow occur. Teachers can help with ushering traffic. Usual parishioners will park in a particular way in the parish carpark (the way they double park usually means this usually occurs normally as many are well practiced at getting out straight after mass) and that even though it may look strange to anyone new at directing traffic in the SFOA carpark it may be usual rather than 'forbidden'.

9. Fr. Gerard posed the interesting question: "How do people learn about Liturgy?" This should be followed up at the next Liturgy Committee meeting.

HELD OVER:

Social Justice Week

LINKS TO St. FRANCIS OF ASSISI 800TH JUBILEE:

Ecumenical gathering to celebrate vision of St. Francis – astronomy/ecology

[happened as of 21/7/26 and was a festive occasion for all involved]

Retreat in Daily Life [happened and a prayerful experience for many participants]

8.45pm:The meeting closed with prayer, led by Fr. Gerard.

Proposed date for next meeting: 7 or 14 July. Principal topic/s to include practical work on expanding contributors to Sacristan/Liturgy work, learning about Liturgy, and identifying prospective new ministers for these areas.

Liturgy Committee Member's Report for Easter Celebration Lectors/Readers.

Palm Sunday x 2 Masses:

Tonight, the practise was held in the church, and it all went well. We will position the Narrators at the lectern. 'Jesus' read by the Priest will be standing in front of the altar, and the other parts will be in front of 2 standing mics at the Baptismal font and in the hall. We practised with the mics tonight and all the readers did well. We have a mix of new people and ones who have done it in the past.

Good Friday

Tonight, the practise was held in the church, and it all went well. We will position the Narrators at the lectern. 'Jesus' read by the Priest will be standing in front of the altar, and the other parts will be in front of 2 standing mics at the Baptismal font and in the hall. We practised with the mics tonight and all the readers did well. I am not 100% clear on at what stage in the service the Passion is to be read, and this will need clarification.

Suggestion

Action Point for next Holy Week/Easter 2027: MCs - Ensure that there is an "MC" for each Easter Service and they have mandated authority to make decisions supported by the Liturgy Committee. There is often confusion from people about what is happening when, and especially when some of the services start outside. **The suggestion is that the Welcomer would need to be informed every Palm Sunday mass that a procession occurs and the gathering starts outside of being seated in the church building.**

Action Point for next Holy Week/Easter 2027: Timetable for priests in Holy Week. It would be good to know which Priest is doing which Masses / Services. Also, does the office send out copies of the readings the week before as they used to do? I have had one reader ask me for the Palm Sunday second reading.

Action Point for next Holy Week /Easter 2027: Encourage people to be on ministry swap lists. There was a challenge in reaching all the potential readers for the Easter Services, due to many people not giving the church permission to share their contact details, therefore missing out on an invitation to read. This can be simply rectified by giving their permission to be on the Reader Swap contact details list.

SFOA Liturgy Committee Notes

ACTION: Holy Week Liturgies: 2027 PLANNING

Palm Sunday:

Action: Ensure we have more palms than we need – perhaps at least 800 pieces of palm or the estimated size of the parish including individuals in families.

Action: Get our parish audiovisual specialist to plan out the sound control next year well in advance and to work out bad weather contingencies early. We would need to think of a 'Plan B' if we are not so fortunate with the weather – as that would have impacted on the celebration.

Action: Liturgy Committee to communicate with Children's Liturgy Team and Book of Life Co-ordinator so any specifics that need to be worked out for any Holy Week mass or Liturgy can be anticipated.

Chrism Mass:

Action: Continue to offer the Catechumens each year the role of collecting the oils at Chrism Mass.

Holy Thursday:

Action: Resolve technical issues to the audibility/visibility/reception of the dramatized homily during the Holy Thursday Mass, if a homily is to be dramatized on Holy Thursday.

Action: Challenge 2000 to work with what capacities they have similar, to what has been done at Children's Day mass – where they focused more on the activities outside the liturgy; or people from the Alpha programme, to coordinate the whole liturgy including cleaning up.

Action: The Liturgy Committee to communicate to C2000 or the organising co-ordinator to ensure that roles are not 'double-booked' from various avenues of advertising for volunteers, etc.

Action: Someone responsible for taking a proactive front-footing of planning and co-ordinating the Holy Thursday mass next year with the co-ordinators concerned....and for shifting of items for the appropriate liturgies.

Good Friday:

Action: Proof-read and check the Walk of Cross booklet in meeting with the other ministers.

Action: From Parish Pastoral Council: The temperature of the Easter Vigil (as well as the Good Friday 3pm Service) was very hot in the church. Some parishioners needed to be cooled down during both services. The air-conditioning should have been put on, if there

was a 'guardian' or team as such responsible for turning things on if the temperature of the church is not optimum, to ensure some windows are open. Perhaps tying these people to those rostered onto the ministry rosters is a possibility.

Action: The Liturgy Committee should discuss and explore options for fluent and appropriate timing for veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday Vigil:

Action: Consider the use of a fifth Eucharistic Minister for this evening (and perhaps for Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning).

Action: Liturgy Committee to ensure that the Paschal Candle is ordered 2-3 weeks in advance along with the 'grains' on it, and it tried onto the candle holder. A competition run by St Brigid's to design the Paschal Candle Emblem was taken up by the parish in 2026 – this competition should be opened to St Benedict's school as well and perhaps the Liturgy Committee can oversee the process on the provisions of the Paschal Candle every year.

Action: Explore alternative settings of the Litany of the Saints.

Action: Explore a tapa mat idea for Easter Vigil 2027 – secured well to avoid being a trip risk.

Action: The OCIA team will be responsible for cleaning up the greenery and the pool should we turn to an immersion baptism again.

Easter Sunday morning.

Action: Investigate a need for an extra mass that day.

General:

Action: Check any cleaning schedule that the parish office could have booked and avoid any miscommunication as to when the cleaners may come for the extra cleaning if booked for Holy Week.

Action: Explore more engagement with young people/children.

Action: More newsletters to be printed to allow for the annual extra attendees.

Action: The exploration of car-parking co-ordinators particularly for Good Friday/Easter Sunday or other services during the Triduum.

Action: Parish office needs to be reminded on the Easter weekend not to put '5pm Saturday Vigil mass' on the newsletter.