

## THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

### **Draft Regulations for the administration of Communion by extension**

(To be read in conjunction with the general guidelines issued by the House of Bishops)

Communion by extension is a pastoral provision for use when the Bishop considers it appropriate. It is intended to enable holy communion to be available on a Sunday morning in two or more congregations meeting separately within a single parish or benefice if a shortage of priests means that sufficient celebrations of the eucharist cannot be held to meet pastoral need. **Explicit permission must be obtained from your area bishop before this form of service is used.**

In the case of multi-church benefices the Bishop is prepared to authorise the use of Communion by extension where there is a clear worshipping link between the relevant churches and providing that the Eucharist is celebrated at least once a month in that church

- 1) Proper teaching should be given in both the sending and receiving churches as to the nature and purpose of Communion by extension before the service is used.
- 2) The agreement of the PCC should be obtained following discussion of these regulations and the guidelines issued by the House of Bishops. A copy of the appropriate resolution must accompany any request for use of this service.
- 3) The Rural Dean should be informed of the times and places at which it is intended that this service is to be used.
- 4) Only the authorised forms of service may be used.
- 5) Only deacons or other persons authorised by the Bishop may conduct the service.
- 6) Proper public notice should be given that the service will be a service of Communion by extension.
- 7) The elements to be distributed are brought directly from a celebration of the eucharist. This service should not be confused with the distribution of holy communion from the reserved sacrament.
- 8) The priest should hand the consecrated elements to the authorised minister during the service at which the Eucharist is celebrated. The deacon or reader taking the consecrated elements should do so either before the sending church makes its own communion, or after the communion but before the post communion prayers and blessing. The minister must always receive holy communion him or herself either in the sending or the receiving church.
- 9) The Priest should dismiss the authorised minister(s) to go to XX church taking with them the love and the prayers of the sending church. The authorised minister(s) should then leave the church in full view of the congregation.
- 10) The elements should be carried in appropriate and secure vessels and should be transported with reverence and care. Ministers should not undertake any other activities en route to the receiving congregation.

- 11) A deacon should wear either an alb / surplice and stole or choir dress (surplice and scarf). A Reader should wear surplice and scarf. may wear cassock-alb and stole, or cotta and stole. A Reader should wear choir dress or a cassock-alb; any other authorised layperson need not wear any distinctive vesture.
- 12) Service books for the Communion by extension should be sufficiently distinguishable from those normally used when the Eucharist is celebrated at the church.
- 13) Where it is the custom, a candle or other light may be lit to mark the presence of the sacrament.
- 14) At the start of the service of Communion by extension the consecrated elements should be placed reverently upon the altar (holy table). The minister should not lead the service from the altar, returning only in order to invite the congregation to holy communion.
- 15) Any consecrated elements remaining after the distribution of holy communion should either be reverently consumed or, in churches where the sacrament is reserved, be placed in the aumbry or tabernacle.
- 16) Any queries concerning these regulations should be addressed to the area bishop and his directions followed.

*May 2005*