

Procedure for Consecration of House Church Reserved Sacrament

This procedure gives some guidelines and best practice for preparing, consecrating and distributing consecrated wafers for a home church process of liturgy of reserved sacrament.

Wafers can be ordered from the Anglican Centre as normal (email reception@anglicanmovement.nz). We are now selling in packs of 100 for \$10. We still have a few packs of 500 for \$45 or the boxes of 200 of the thicker wafers for \$16. Please note, these wafers are not consecrated, so do not send them straight out.

We also have some stock of re-sealable cellophane bags which can be ordered from the Anglican Centre. We recommend using bags that can be properly sealed to avoid the risk of contamination once they are sent out for delivery/pick up. Bags should not be sent back to be re-used for communion again as this increases the risk of contamination.

Before Consecration

Before performing the consecration, it is very important that all items used in the consecration are properly sanitised. This includes:

- Ensuring you are well and you pose no risk of infection. IF YOU ARE UNWELL, DO NOT PROCEED.
- Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds, and drying them thoroughly
- Sanitising the altar or area where consecration will happen
 - wiping down all surfaces
 - removing tablecloths or objects
- Using sterilised tongs to place wafer(s) in a clean, new cellophane bag, and ensuring the bag is properly sealed.

The Parish should decide what works best for them about how they divide up wafers. You may like to have a standard bag size (e.g 5 wafers per bag) or you may offer parishioners the ability to request the amount needed.

Distribution

Parishes can decide whether people will pick up their wafers, or if they will be delivered by volunteers or yourself.

Each pack should contain:

- The wafers with appropriate label and disclaimer

- Any other local resources for use in weekly house church.

It is also an opportunity for you to add a newsletter, note of thanks, or personalised prayer to ensure that throughout this time people are reminded that they are remembered as part of a local faith community. They might in turn use this opportunity to share their needs with you.

If parishioners pick up from the parish:

- Set up a “clean zone” for the bags to be collected from. This means-
 - Wiping down all surfaces
 - Setting up hand sanitiser for those collecting to use
- Clearly label each bag for who it is for, and lay each one out in a way that avoids cross-contamination (that is, you should make sure that in picking up one bag they don’t need to touch another)
- Stress that those picking up should be well and practice physical distancing whilst doing so. You may wish to allocate people to time slots (10-15 minutes) to stagger pick up and avoid too many people gathering at once.
- Keep a register of collections to ensure contact tracing

If wafers are being delivered by yourself or a volunteer:

- Make sure anyone visiting the homes of others (particularly the elderly or those with pre-existing health conditions) are well and practice physical distancing. This means
 - Staying 2m away from others
 - Not shaking hands, hugging or making any other physical contact with the person
 - Keeping interactions short
 - Best practice would be to drop the wafers off somewhere safe for them to pick up - e.g by the front door, then step back 2m
 - Keeping a register of home visits to ensure contact tracing

Instructions for passing out the sacrament in the home

- The house church leader should sanitise their hands or wash for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- Ensure any surfaces that will come into contact with the wafers should be also cleaned/sanitised.
- At the time of preparing to take the reserved sacrament, the wafers should be distributed onto the clean surface straight from the bag.
- The critical thing is to ensure no cross contamination is possible as the wafers are distributed (by a communicant accidentally touching another wafer). The leader may place the wafer in each person’s hand, or ensure that they are spaced on the surface such that they can be picked up safely.