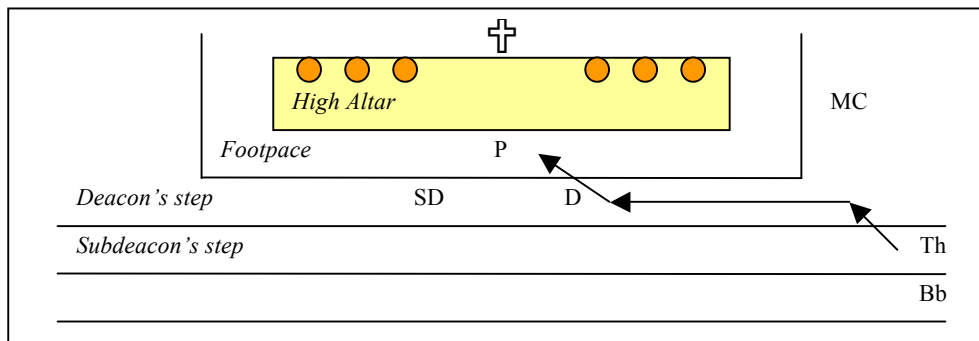


CENSING THE HIGH ALTAR

This note describes the ceremonial for the censuring of the High Altar at a Sung Eucharist for both Order One and Order Two. The routine applies on arrival at the Altar (black and **dark red** text) and is repeated at the Offertory (when the text in **blue** additionally applies to that in black).

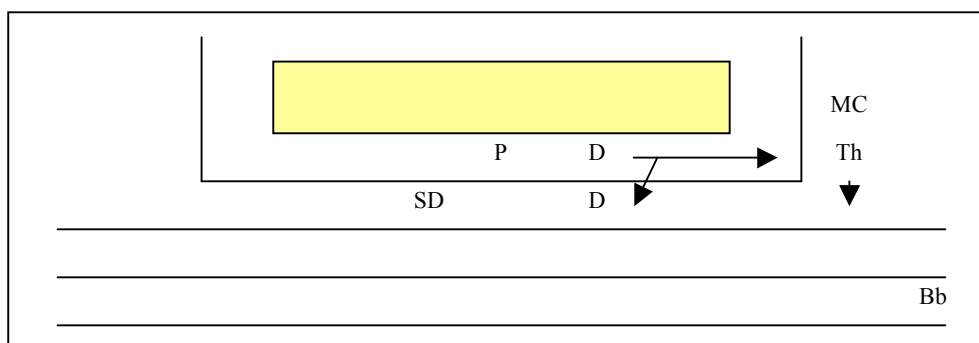
1. The President (P) stands on the footpace. The Deacon (D) and Subdeacon (SD) stand on the Deacon's step. The Thurifer (Th) and Boat Bearer (Bb) move from their station along the Deacon's step and up on to the footpace in front the D. The Thurible is **charged, blessed and** handed to the P. The Th and Bb return to their station.



2. The P censes the **offerings**, cross (with three double swings) and Altar. The D and SD maintain their positions.

The P censes the offeringsⁱ (without bowing), then bows, censes the cross with three double swings, bows. The P moves to the right censing the top of the Altar, the corner or the Altar and returns censing the front of the Altar. P bows at the centre then moves to the left censing the top of the Altar, the corner or the Altar and returns censing the front of the Altar. P bows on returning to the centre.

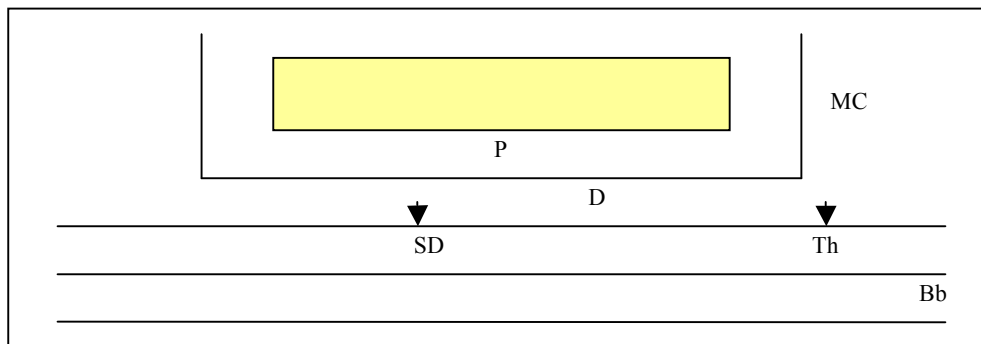
3. **The Th moves to the centre of the footpace to receive the Thurible back from the P and returns to the Th's station. The D and SD then step up to the footpace together.**
4. **When the P has finished censing the Altar, the D steps up to the footpace. The D receives the Thurible from the P, steps back along the footpace to make space. Facing the P, the D bows to the P, censes the P with three double swings (three triple swings when the P is the Diocesan Bishop) and bows again.**
5. **Meanwhile the Th moves to the end of the footpace, but not on to the footpace. (The Bb remains at the station.) The D brings the Thurible to the Th, and then moves back along the footpace to the usual position at the Altar, steps down on to the Deacon's step and turns to face the Th. The Th moves one pace to the left on the Deacon's step. The Th bows to the D, censes the D with three double swings and bows again.**



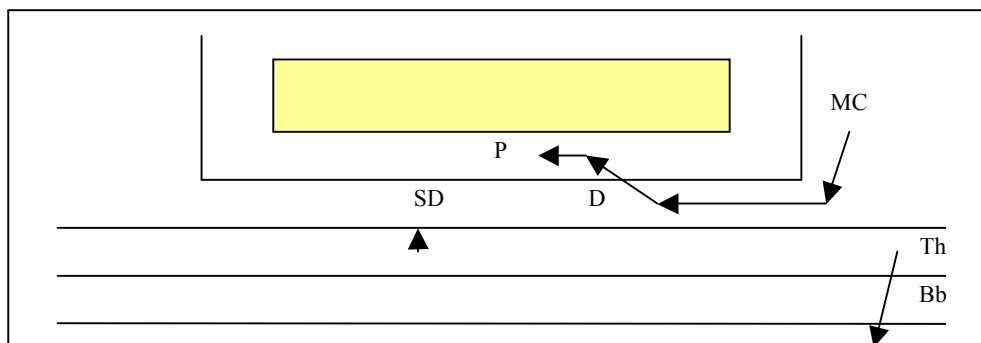
6. **The SD and Th then step down on to the Subdeacon's step and face each other. The Th bows**

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to the SD, censes the SD with three double swings (single swings when lay) and bows again.



7. The SD steps up to the Deacon's step.
8. Once the Th and Bb have moved down on to the sanctuary pavement, the MC moves from the MC's station along the Deacon's step and up on to the footpace in front the D to administer lavabo.



The MC returns to the MC's station and the D and SD step up to the footpace.

9. The Th collects the Bb and moves down on to the sanctuary pavement. Th censes the clergy on each side of the sanctuary as a group with three double swings (triple swings if the group includes the Diocesan Bishop); the side with the most senior clergyman is censed first.

In rare cases when the Diocesan Bishop is present and but has remained in the Quire, he is censed next after the sacred ministers with three triple swings, even though this may necessitate the Th and Bb moving from the sanctuary to the Quire to cense the Bishop, back to the sanctuary and then down to the congregation.

10. Servers, clergy in the Quire and the choir are not censed.
11. The Th and Bb move through the quire to the top of the quire steps. Here they stop, bow to the congregation, cense it with three double swings (centre, left, right), bow and then return to their stations in the sanctuary.

Chris Nott
15th October 2017

ⁱ To cense the offerings the P makes the sign of the cross (one swing drawing the Thurible towards himself over the offerings and then left to right) thrice, followed by two anti-clockwise circles then a clockwise circle.