



COMMUNION RESERVE POLICY

The principle behind this policy is that only duly consecrated species are administered at Holy Communion.

The policy applies to every celebration at the Cathedral including those services in the Nave which include communion stations at the west end and in the west gallery. Topping up a consecrated chalice with unconsecrated reserve is not to be practised.

Implementation at a service

A flagon of wine, a box of hosts and an empty ciborium with lid or empty box for hosts are placed on the credence table in addition to the communion vessels and flagons required for the administration.

The Deacon charges the chalices to an appropriate level during the Offertory Hymn, taking guidance from the MC using the number of expected communicants. However, the Deacon is responsible for judging the final provision.

- At a standard Sunday Eucharist when the chalices can be sufficiently charged for the whole congregation, all the flagons, empty or not, are then placed on the credence table, not to be consecrated. There is no reserve consecrated wine.
- On other occasions when there is a large congregation or there are multiple communion stations, flagons of wine are placed on the corporal for consecration. (Note that there must be at least one flagon on the credence after the altar has been prepared in addition to the spare flagon of wine.)

Consecrated reserve

Servers hold reserves of consecrated hosts, eg in a wafer box, and consecrated wine in a flagon, at communion stations agreed before the service.

A communion administrator or server contacts the MC should the reserve be insufficient. (Whilst this happens and one chalice 'runs dry' the other administrant should continue administering the chalice singly.)

Supplementary consecration

The MC advises the President that supplementary consecration is necessary should the hosts or wine be insufficient to complete the administration of communion.

The MC prepares the appropriate species for consecration at the credence table:

- Hosts: the MC places hosts from the box of spare hosts into the spare ciborium or spare wafer box.
- Wine: the MC takes a flagon set aside on the credence, empty or not, and adds further wine as deemed necessary from the large flagon.

The MC takes the hosts and/or wine for consecration to the President at the Altar. This should take place so as not to stall the administration of Holy Communion.

The President consecrates the species. The MC conveys the newly consecrated species to the appropriate communion station(s).

Chris Nott
17th October 2017