

In ministering Communion to people in a health care setting, particular considerations to be taken into account include:

- Liaison with health care staff
- Oral intake - fasting or 'nil by mouth'
- The degree of pain or discomfort the patient may be suffering
- Possible shyness on the part of the patient in a public setting
- How to create a prayerful space, e.g by drawing a curtain
- How to celebrate the rite reverently in a shared space.

#### It is desirable that:

- A suitable place be prepared
- That there is a glass of water nearby in case the patient needs to drink after receiving the host
- There be a period of silence after Communion
- A copy of the prayers be left to connect the patient with the community.

#### Ministers will be aware of the need to:

- Maintain confidentiality and appropriate boundaries at all times
- Ensure that proper infection control measures are taken as circumstances require.

#### The Ministers and their attributes

Ministers of communion for the sick are made up of Lay Chaplains, Priests, Volunteers and Pastoral Care staff. In a particular way they manifest faith and charity on behalf of the whole community and like all liturgical ministers, ministers of Communion to the sick are:

- Baptised Catholics active in the life of the church
- Faithful to the church's mandate
- Good hearted men and women motivated by a desire to serve.

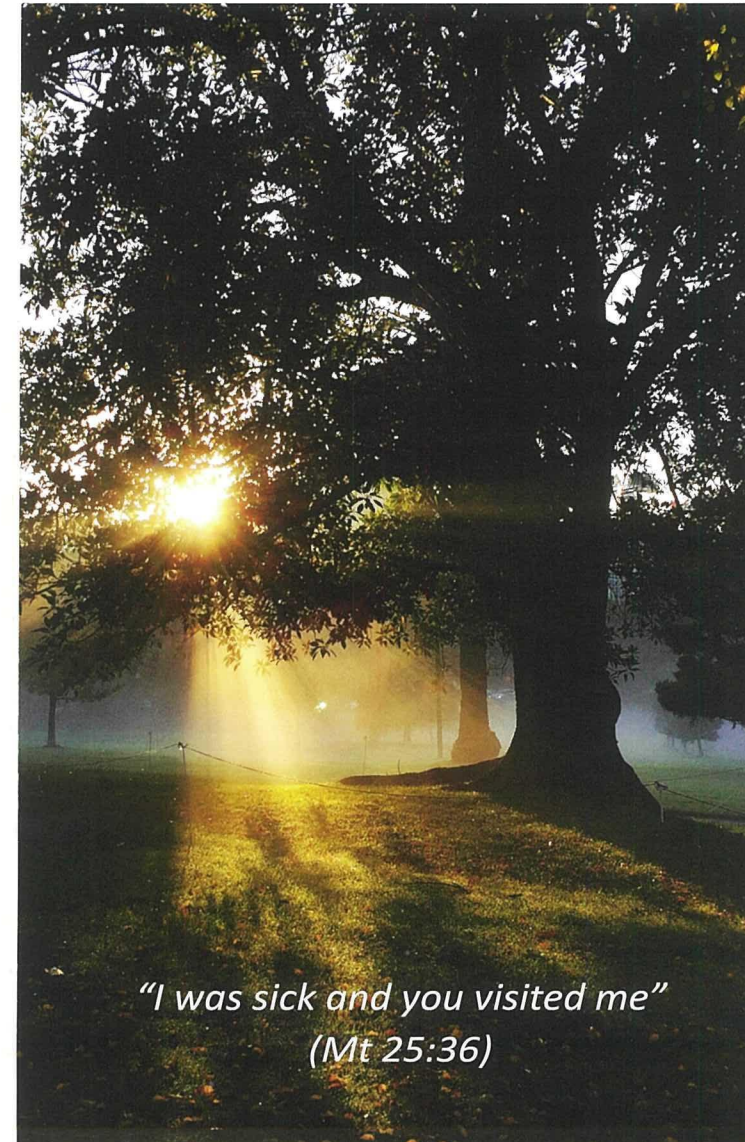
#### More particularly they are blessed with:

- Compassion for the sick
- The ability to adapt to diverse and changing circumstances
- Respect for the sick person's rhythm of rest, meals and medication.



Catholic Chaplaincy and Wellbeing

## *Ministry of Communion to the Sick*



*"I was sick and you visited me"*  
(Mt 25:36)

## Liturgy of Holy Communion

In a health care setting, ministering Communion to the sick can be healing and comforting. It is approached carefully and respectfully.

Communion ministry is available in the hospital each weekday and on Sunday mornings by pastoral care staff and visiting teams of volunteers: "Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion".

We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

### Greeting

May God bless you with peace and strength.

**Blessed be God forever**

### Act of Contrition (optional)

O my God, I am sorry that I have sinned against you because you are so good and with your help I will not sin again.

### Scripture Reading (optional)

We have come to know to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love,

And he who abides in love abides in God,

And God in them. (1 John 4:16)

### The Lord's Prayer

(Jesus taught us to pray and so we say)

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**Amen**

### Hail Mary (optional)

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is  
the fruit of your womb, Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now, and at the hour of our death.**

**Amen**

### Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the lamb.

**Lord I am not worthy that you should enter  
under my roof, but only say the words and my  
soul shall be healed.**

The Body of Christ.

**Amen**

### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

All-powerful God,

We thank you for the nourishment  
you give us through your holy gift.

Pour out your Spirit upon us

and in the strength of this food from heaven  
keep us single-minded in your service.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord

**Amen**

