**Bringing Communion to the Sick - A Guide for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**Introductory Rites**

Minister: Peace to this house and all who live in it.

My brothers and sisters let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves for this celebration *(followed by a pause for silent reflection)*

Minister: Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord, have mercy. People: Lord, have mercy

Minister: Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ, have mercy

People: Christ, have mercy

Minister: Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy. People: Lord, have mercy

Minister: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

**Liturgy of the Word**

*A brief passage from Sacred Scripture may then be read by one of those present or by the minister. Suggested readings are given overleaf. The Gospel of the day may also be used.*

**Holy Communion**

Minister: At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, *etc.*

*Then the minister shows the Holy Eucharist to those present, saying:*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

*The minister goes to the sick person. Raising the host slightly, the minister shows it to the communicant, saying:* The Body of Christ.

*Others present who wish to receive Holy Communion then do so. A period of silence may then be observed.*

**Concluding Rites**

Minister: Let us pray

All-powerful and ever-living God, may the body and blood of Christ your Son be our brother / sister N. / brothers and sisters a lasting remedy for body and soul. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then the minister invokes God’s blessing, making the sign of the Cross on himself or herself, while saying:*

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

*When Holy Communion is given in different rooms of the same building, such as a hospital, a shorter rite is to be used. It may begin in the first room where the minister begins the rite as above and reads a short passage from Scripture. Holy Communion is then distributed to those in the room and each room after that. The rite can then be concluded in the last room.*

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**The Short Form of the Reading of the Word**

**John 6:51**: Jesus says: ‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.’

**John 14:27**: Jesus says: ‘Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.’

**John 6:54-58**: Jesus says: ‘Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate; they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

*Other suggested passages include:*

John 14:6, John 15:5, John 15:4, John 4:16, Matthew 11:25-30, 1 Kings 19:2-8, Psalm 62, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 22, Matthew 8:14-17

*(Adapted from “Bringing Communion to the Sick” (2012), Veritas Publications, Dublin)*