

Corpus Christi: High Mass & Procession of the Blessed Sacrament

Preparations:

The altar and credence table are set up for High Mass.

- The benediction pyx, with its wafer, is placed on the credence table with the ciboria. (See appended Note)
- Two tapers are placed on the credence table (for use by the acolytes when lighting the benediction candles).
- Two tapers are placed on the chest near the lectern to assist in the lighting of candles (for use in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament) for the clergy "in choir" who are seated in the front pews.
- The monstrance is placed on the table behind the altar, together with the usual High Mass accoutrements.
- The benediction lights are placed on the altar (in front of candles 2 and 5), but not yet lit.
- A second sacring bell is placed near the standard candle on the right (i.e. Epistle) side.
- A white cope and humeral veil are placed within the Chapel of the Incarnation, convenient to the MC.
- The MC needs to have a book containing the DEVOTIONS to hand.
- If there are priests in choir, the MC needs to have candles (for use in procession) for them. [This will only be feasible if suitable weather protection is provided]
- Suitable containers for the carriage of flower petals will be placed in front of the pews on either side of the centre aisle. These will be collected by designated persons and scattered ahead of the Sacrament (i.e. behind the MC and in front of the Thurifer). The MC will brief the relevant people.

Personnel:

1. Two thurifers and boat boy.
 - a. Thurifer I serves as Thurifer during Mass in the usual manner.
 - b. Thurifer II will assist with incensing during the Procession, the station at the Wayside Cross and the final Benediction.
 - c. During the Mass itself, Thurifer II will sit in the front pews with the canopy bearers, receive Communion when the canopy bearers receive Communion, and afterwards proceed into the cook house to meet Thurifer I, who will have departed the Sanctuary to prepare for the Procession.
 - d. After loading their respective thuribles, Thurifer I and Thurifer II will then return at the same time to the Sanctuary (once the MC has indicated) with the boat boy, to begin the procession.
2. Four torch bearers
3. Four canopy bearers.
 - a. Canopy bearers occupy places in the front pew on the gospel (pulpit) side of the nave, as on Maundy Thursday.
 - b. They will enter before the main entry procession and take their places.

4. Visiting parishes may be represented by robed servers. Places should be reserved for them in the front rows on the epistle side of the nave. Whether carrying banners or not, they will enter with the main body of clergy/servers, under the direction of the MC.
5. Two Acolytes
6. Three sacred ministers: Celebrant, Deacon, Sub-deacon

The Mass:

Entry Procession:

	Thurifer I & Boat boy	
Acolyte	Crucifer	Acolyte
	Torchbearer Torchbearer	
	Torchbearer Torchbearer	
	Visiting servers	
	Visiting clergy	
	Master of Ceremonies	
	Sub-deacon	
	Deacon	
	Celebrant	
	Bishop	

- The MC will brief robed representatives of other parishes as to their disposition.
- Visiting clergy will enter as per the usual arrangements and will move to their reserved pews, (genuflecting before entering the pew).
- The MC will direct visitors carrying banners to place them in the Handfield Chapel before taking the seats reserved for them. (It may be wise for the MC to have on hand one of the sides-people to help in giving directions).
- Mass proceeds without variation to the Communion. The MC will go to the Bishop for the Absolution and Thurifer I goes to the bishop for incense, as usual.
- Torchbearers attend the Consecration with lighted candles, as is current practice at High Mass. At the end of the Prayer of Consecration (Great Thanksgiving) and before the Lord's Prayer, they stand and return to their places in the usual way.
- Unless the procession is to be indoors (because of inclement weather) they extinguish their candles at this point, as usual. If there is to be an indoor procession, and only if this is the case, the torches are simply placed in the racks while still alight.

During the Communion:

1. Canopy bearers receive communion at the altar rail, together with visiting clergy, visiting servers and the congregation. Thurifer I, with the boatbearer, leaves the sanctuary (via the side door) after receiving communion.
2. Thurifer II joins Thurifer I and the boat boy in the cook house. The thuribles are made ready for the procession.
3. The torchbearers receive communion, kneeling in front of their benches, as is current practice.
4. The torchbearers, who are on this occasion will not be required as canopy bearers, stand in front of their benches, after receiving communion. They will be required to kneel, in the usual way, as the sacrament is returned to the altar.
5. The MC, during the communion, places the stool with the humeral veil and the appropriate book in the usual place for Benediction.
6. Candles (which may be prepared for an outdoor procession) may be distributed at this time to clergy who are "in choir" and in the front pews. If an outdoor procession is to take place, the acolytes' lanterns should be lit at this time, but left in the sacristy.

Ablutions and Post Communion Hymn:

1. The Post-Communion hymn is sung at the usual time. During the hymn, the ablutions are performed as usual, except that the benediction pyx and its host remain on the corporal and the burse remains on the gradine.
2. After the vessels have been cleansed, the Deacon brings the monstrance to the altar, placing it (covered, and turned side-on to the congregation) at the Celebrant's right before returning to his place on the middle step.
3. Since the torchbearers have not retired to act as canopy bearers, the MC will give them a cue during the Post-Communion hymn to move, after genuflecting in a line beneath the arch, to take up positions similar to those occupied by banner-bearers at the end of a procession – two on either side of the carpet. On arrival at these positions, the torchbearers kneel, facing inwards. They will be carrying outdoor torches unless the procession is to take place indoors, in which case they will carry their usual torches.
4. The MC will direct servers from other parishes to obtain their banners from the Handfield Chapel and gather in the transept crossing (on the lectern side), ready to join in the procession.
5. The Celebrant waits for the Deacon to take his place on the middle step before commencing the post-communion prayer or prayers. There is no blessing or dismissal.

Preparations for the Censing of the Blessed Sacrament and Procession:

1. During this period of preparation, the Director of Music may choose to provide some suitable organ music, or a motet may be sung.
2. After the final prayer, the Deacon and Subdeacon join the Celebrant on the top step.
 - a. They then descend together to the pavement, make a simple genuflection below the bottom step and go to the sedilia (or Incarnation Chapel), where the Celebrant assumes the cope.
 - b. While this is happening, both acolytes light the benediction candles, after which Acolyte I removes the missal and stand to the rear table.
 - c. If there is to be an outdoor procession, the acolytes then obtain the outdoor candles from the sacristy.
 - d. Rather than returning to the credence, the acolytes move to join the Crucifer.
 - e. All three should take up a position, off the carpet, as at the conclusion of an entry procession.
3. The sacred ministers, after the Celebrant's assumption of the cope, wait at the sedilia until the MC signifies that all is in readiness to proceed. At this time, the Bishop and the clergy in choir should be kneeling in their places.
4. After he has supervised the assumption of the cope, the MC supplies any clergy who may be in choir with lighted candles (only if suitable weather protection has been provided or there is to be an indoor procession).
5. Two of the canopy bearers, using tapers, will obtain a light from the lectern and help visiting clergy in the front pews to light their candles.
6. The MC standing at his usual station, signifies to Thurifers I and II and the boat boy that they should enter via the pulpit steps.
 - a. They genuflect on entry and stand near the standard candle on the right (epistle side).
 - b. The MC gives the cue to the acolytes and crucifer, who move to stand together under the sanctuary arch.
 - c. The canopy bearers take up the canopy and move to stand so that the leading pair is just short of the linoleum (on the pulpit side).

Censing and Procession:

1. The sacred ministers, accompanied by the MC, move to the foot of the altar steps, where they genuflect.
 - a. The Celebrant and Deacon ascend to the altar.
 - b. The Subdeacon kneels on the bottom step as the Celebrant and Deacon ascend to the altar.
 - c. The MC also kneels on the bottom step, outside the standard candle.
 - d. Thurifers and boatbearer move in to position in the centre of the red carpet, a metre or so out from the bottom altar step. The Celebrant and Deacon will eventually return to the bottom step to re-join the Sub-deacon so room needs to be given for them to do so.
 - e. Meanwhile, the Deacon uncovers the monstrance and assists the Celebrant to place the consecrated host in the lunette.
 - f. The monstrance is then placed centrally on the corporal. The Celebrant and Deacon then move to re-join the Subdeacon. Note, as the Host is exposed they step backwards to kneel on the bottom step.
 - g. The boat boy loads the thuribles with incense. Thurifers I and II then cense the Sacrament. While the Sacrament is being censed, all in the sanctuary (except the acolytes and crucifer) kneel.
 - h. After the censing, the Thurifers and boat boy move to stand at the sedilia. The MC places the humeral veil over the Celebrant's shoulders.
2. The Celebrant and Deacon then ascend to the altar. The Deacon helps the Celebrant take up the monstrance.
 - a. The Deacon returns to the bottom step before the Celebrant turns to face the people.
 - b. At this point, the Presiding Bishop, MC, Deacon, Subdeacon, Thurifers and boat boy all join in a double genuflection. The torchbearers who are already kneeling do not participate in this double genuflection.
3. The Celebrant now descends to the foot of the altar steps, where he is joined by the Deacon and Sub-deacon
 - a. The Deacon and Sub-deacon change places, moving behind him.
 - b. To aid the carrying of the Sacrament, Deacon and Sub-deacon hold the edges of the Celebrant's cope.
 - c. Priests "in choir" stand, ready to join in the procession.
4. The MC will direct servers from visiting parishes to obtain banners (if they have them) and gather in the crossing, on the lectern side, ready to join in the procession.
5. Under the direction of the MC, the procession is formed, in this order:

Acolytes and Crucifer
Thurifers I & II and boat boy
Those scattering flowers
Celebrant, under the canopy while out of the bounds of the sanctuary. (The Celebrant is flanked by the four torches in two single-file rows on either side).
Deacon and Subdeacon, who flank the Celebrant when possible
Bishop
Servers from other parishes, with their banners
Priests-in-Choir and visiting clergy or if an indoor procession is necessitated)
Congregation
Choir

6. The procession traverses centre aisle and leaves the church by the west door.

- a. Those who lead the procession (the acolytes and crucifer) are asked to set a pace which, though slower than a festive procession, is not too slow – not as slow as on Maundy Thursday.
7. After leaving the church, the procession moves up the side path (or the driveway if the side path is impassable) and head towards the Wayside Cross in the corner square.

Station at the Wayside Cross:

1. The canopy and torch bearers move towards the Gisborne St side of the Wayside Cross, slowing to allow the Sacred Ministers to emerge from the Canopy.
 - a. The canopy bearers and torch bearers turn around completely so that they can return to the same spot to collect the Sacred Ministers to process down Albert St—also so that they do not have their backs turned to the exposition.
2. The Crucifer and two acolytes move to stand on the Gisborne St side of the Wayside Cross. From the perspective of the Sacred Ministers they will line up to the left of the Wayside corpus, facing Albert St.
3. Thurifers I & II will form up behind the Sacred Ministers.
4. The Sacred Ministers step up and walk towards the ledge under the large Corpus, which currently contains a recess for flowers.
 - a. Benediction candelabra and a flat surface covered in a corporal are already in situ. The Sacrament will be placed upon said corporal.
 - b. The Celebrant places the Sacrament upon the corporal.
 - c. Thurifer I hands the thurible to the Deacon who then hands it to Celebrant
 - d. Celebrant incenses the Sacrament. He then returns it to the Deacon who returns it to Thurifer I.
 - e. Thurifers I and II kneel a reasonable distance behind the Sacred Ministers, all the while swinging their thuribles.
 - f. Meanwhile choir sings Tantum Ergo
 - g. Sacred Ministers step back, facing the Sacrament, and kneel. Celebrant intones: “Thou hast given them bread from heaven Alleluia”
 - h. Choir responds: “Containing in it all sweetness Alleluia”
 - i. Celebrant chants/says “Let us pray; O God, who under a wonderful Sacrament hast left us a memorial of Thy Passion; grant us, we beseech Thee, so to reverence the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may ever feel within ourselves the fruit of Thy Redemption: Thou who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.
 - j. Celebrant and sacred ministers stand, offer double genuflection
 - k. Celebrant retrieves sacrament and holds it aloft briefly as Thurifers I and II cense it again.
5. Canopy returns to collect Sacred Ministers. Thurifers etc. form up the continue procession down Albert St.

Procession continues:

1. The procession turns left into Nicholson Street / Spring Street, where it turns left. Thurifers I and II may need to pause to re-load their thuribles as necessary.
2. The procession enters Parliament gardens and follows the path to return to the church via Albert Street and the church driveway.
3. On entry, via the Centre aisle, visiting servers will be advised by the MC to peel off into the South transept and wait the Sacred Ministers enter the sanctuary and the altar is revered before putting banners away in the Handfield Chapel and returning to their places. Visiting clergy will return to the reserved pews and kneel. The procession is brought to an end by the usual genuflection by the sanctuary party.
4. On return to the sanctuary, the acolytes and crucifer move aside to the left (as usual) and remain there throughout the Benediction. They do not return to the centre of the

sanctuary until it is time to form up for the recessional. The torchbearers join in the genuflection which concludes the procession and return to their benches where they kneel.

5. Thurifers I and II and boatbearer stand aside on the epistle side near the standard candle, and then kneel after the Sacred Ministers have moved to the altar. Priests "in choir" return to their stalls and kneel.
6. Meanwhile, the canopy bearers have put the canopy away and returned to kneel in their former positions in the front pews.

Benediction:

1. The sacred ministers move to the altar and the Bishop returns to his place.
2. The Subdeacon stands at the foot of the altar steps, while the Deacon and Celebrant ascend to the altar.
 - a. The monstrance is placed on the corporal.
 - b. The Celebrant and Deacon then descend to the foot of the altar steps (stepping backwards). All three sacred ministers make a double genuflection (in which the MC and Thurifers join) and kneel on the bottom step.
 - c. The Thurifers form up behind the kneeling sacred ministers, leaving a fair distance between them to allow the thuribles space to swing.
 - d. The bot boy puts incense on and the Sacrament censured. During the censuring, all except the acolytes and crucifer kneel, as in the earlier censuring.
3. After the censuring, the MC (with the book) moves to kneel next to the Deacon and the thurifer and boatbearer kneel behind the MC. The MC passes the book to the Celebrant, via the Deacon.
4. The Celebrant says or chants: Thou gavest them bread from heaven. Alleluia. The choir responds: Containing in itself all sweetness. Alleluia.
5. The Celebrant continues: "Let us pray. O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen."
6. The Celebrant alone ascends to the footpace and gives Benediction. The MC rings the sacring bell three times and the Thurifers censes with three double swings.
7. After the Benediction, the celebrant returns to kneel on the bottom step. The MC sees to the removal of the humeral veil and passes the book for the Divine Praises.
 - a. The Divine Praises are said.
8. After the Divine Praises, while others remain kneeling, the Celebrant and Deacon move (on a cue from the MC) to the top step.
9. The host is removed from the monstrance, put in the pyx and placed in the tabernacle. The monstrance is covered and placed side-on to the right of the corporal. The corporal is folded and placed in the burse.

Recessional:

1. As soon as the tabernacle is closed, the MC stands together with the Subdeacon and other servers.
 - o Priests-in-Choir and other visiting clergy extinguish their candles and stand in readiness for the recessional.
 - o The Subdeacon moves forward to join the Celebrant and Deacon on the top step.
2. The MC gives the cue for the torchbearers to stand and extinguish their candles (if used in an indoor procession).
3. The Thurifer and boatbearer are then prompted to move to their places in readiness for the recessional. As soon as the way is clear, the acolytes and crucifer move to their places

in the centre of the pavement. The torchbearers then move to their usual places in a line under the arch.

4. While this assembly is taking place, the MC moves to the right (rather than the left) horn of the altar so that he can give the sacred ministers the cue to descend to the pavement. The presiding Bishop is brought forward, as usual, to join in the recessional.
5. When all are in position on the pavement, the MC will lead a simple genuflection. The recessional is in the same order as the Entry Procession, but without banners.

NOTE:

A new Benediction host is consecrated at this Mass. The Vicar (or his delegate) will need to arrange for any pre-consecrated host to be consumed before the service. The pyx will need to be washed and made available for the set-up prior to this Mass.

Inclement Weather:

The procession will be entirely within the church, traversing the South and Centre Aisles. Because only the two aisles are used, there should be no danger of the procession "catching up with its own tail". For an indoor procession, the acolytes will carry their normal candles (rather than the outdoor lanterns).

If there is to be an indoor procession, the torchbearers will not extinguish their candles after the consecration, but will place them, lighted, in the racks while they communicate. They will carry their candles in an indoor procession.