

Friday, 1 August 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Returning to the Common Cup

In September last year I asked those parishes that had not yet returned to the Common Cup to do so by the end of October 2024.

As I said in that letter, the sharing of the Cup of the Lord is rich in meaning and value for Anglicans. It was the early church's practice and is the traditional Anglican way of receiving the Blood of Christ, as enshrined in the formularies of the Book of Common Prayer.

Those parishes that received permission to continue the use of individual cups beyond October 2024 were asked to at least reintroduce the chalice as an option, commencing from late 2024. Yet some parishes continued with only individual cups until very recently. This means that in these parishes the Chalice was not offered for over five years. In my view this is unacceptable, given that the special provisions adopted during COVID-19 were offered for pandemic conditions only.

As mentioned in my letter of last year, it is my intention that the following means of administration of Holy Communion will apply across the diocese from the end of 2025:

Holy Communion is to be offered in both kinds, Bread and Common Cup, with the wine being distributed in one or more of the following ways:

- By sipping from a shared chalice, served by properly trained Eucharistic ministers using the best practices of turning and wiping the chalice after each person.
- By intinction by the priest or a properly trained Eucharistic minister who can safely assist communicants to receive the bread by dipping it into the wine for the communicant, without their fingers having contact with the wine. This is sometimes done from a special chalice set aside for the purpose of intinction. As per my previous advice, under no circumstances should communicants intinct their own wafer.
- Important note 1. The church has always taught that the fullness of the sacrament is received in just one element. Those who do not wish to receive from the chalice for whatever reason may individually refrain from receiving the wine at any time - this is not 'exclusion' but full participation in the sacrament.
- Important Note 2. The elements to be consecrated are those set out in the Prayer Book: "It is sufficient that the bread be that normally eaten and that the wine be the fermented juice of the grape" (APBA p.164 Note 13).

This is the standard means of administration of Holy Communion in the Diocese of Grafton and is based on the Holy Communion Canon 2001, the BCP and APBA. It has now been specifically incorporated into the Pastoral Protocols of the Diocese of Grafton.

A small number of ministry units were given permission to continue using individual cups, alongside the Chalice, until mid-2025. The *incumbent* of any parish still using individual cups is asked to write to me by the end of August this year outlining the current arrangements in the parish for the administration of Holy Communion. They should also describe their plans to move to the standard arrangements for administration of Holy Communion by the end of 2025.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read '+ Murray'.

Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

