



HAMILTON

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DIOCESAN POLICY

on

Posture during the Eucharistic Prayer

1. The celebration of Mass is important. It is at the heart of who we are as Catholics. It is therefore essential that all aspects of the Mass be celebrated with dignity and reverence.
2. There are different practices in the Diocese regarding posture during the Eucharistic Prayer: some kneel; some stand; others sit.
3. The Eucharistic Prayer marks the high point of the celebration of the Mass; the posture we adopt needs to reflect this.
4. While the universal edition of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* n 43, calls for the people of God to kneel for the Words of Institution, in New Zealand the tradition has been for Catholics to kneel from after the *Holy, Holy* until after the singing of the *Great Amen*.
5. In the Diocese of Hamilton, the normal posture during the Eucharistic Prayer, is that the Faithful, except those unable to by reasons of health or old age, should kneel from after the *Holy, Holy* until after the singing of the *Great Amen*.
6. For those churches where there are no kneelers but where the Faithful are able to kneel easily while retaining clear sight of the altar, the Faithful are to kneel from after the *HolyHoly* until the singing of the *Great Amen*. If, however, the Faithful are unable to see the altar, they are to stand during the Eucharistic prayer.
7. Sitting for the Eucharistic prayer has never been part of our Catholic tradition. It should be avoided.

Given at Hamilton , on Friday, 15 April 2011

✠ Denis Browne
BISHOP OF HAMILTON