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Music Copyright Policy

It is a legal requirement that all Parishes and Schools in the diocese be compliant with Copyright Licensing.

"For us as Church, this is also a matter of Justice"

- For all music used at Masses, Liturgies and Events/Functions, a copyright licence is required. This licence covers the melody lines and the lyrics used by the congregation whether on powerpoint, hard copy, or overhead projector, etc.
- Additionally the parish needs to own the "Music" sheets/books/folders for the accompaniment, including guitar chords, choral arrangements and instrumental parts used by the musicians/choirs/music groups. Any terms and conditions applicable to this purchased material must also be honoured.

Two acknowledgements are required on the powerpoint, hard copy or OHP etc:

- One for the lyrics used by the congregation.
- The other for the music sheets/scores/guitar chords used by the musicians/choirs/music groups.

This means the Lyrics, for each piece of music chosen, need to be checked against the ONE LICENSE Library (or other licence purchased by the parish/group) and all accompaniments must be owned by the parish

Exceptions

Please note, music that falls into either of the following categories does not require copyright, but should nevertheless be acknowledged when used:

1. Music that is classed as being in the Public Domain.
2. Music that has been gifted to the Church (eg Maria Guzzo's Mass of Mary Queen of Peace, Richard Puanaki's Mass setting for the Miha Māori).

The rule is:

If the lyrics are not covered by your licence or you don't own the music accompaniment, you are not permitted to use it.

✠ Steve Lowe
BISHOP OF HAMILTON

10 April 2017