

## Visiting Choirs: Information for Services

### 1b) 10 am Sunday Solemn Eucharist

Common Worship Order One

Music required:

- An unaccompanied introit
- Mass setting: Gloria, Sanctus, (Benedictus if desired) and Agnus Dei
- A communion motet
- Responsorial Psalm (which will require a solo cantor from within the choir to sing the verses)
- Three hymns

You will be sent hard copies of the following:

- Order of service
- Copy of the appointed Responsorial Psalm
- Gospel sentence (for use with the Alleluia)
- “Music for the Eucharist” booklet for your organist containing harmonisations for the Alleluia, Sursum Corda and Acclamations (sung by the choir and congregation in unison from the order of service).

**Instructions** to be used alongside the congregational order of service:

There is no organ music before the service.

The choir processes in silence to the south choir aisle to arrive by 9.58 am. After the Cathedral clock has struck 10, the **introit** begins immediately. When it has ended, the **first hymn** begins promptly.

The choir follows the Crucifer via the west end and nave to the stalls. The organist improvises if necessary until the altar has been censed and the clergy have returned to the Podium.

After the **Gloria**, the organist immediately gives a quiet note for the President to intone the **Collect** (between tenor G and B flat, as best fits the key of the Gloria). The choir leads the congregation in singing “Amen” on a monotone, unaccompanied. A solo cantor for the Responsorial Psalm should move to the appropriate Canon’s stall at this point before sitting with the choir.

When the first reading is over, the choir stands (though the congregation remains seated) to sing the **Responsorial Psalm**. The organist plays over the response once, then the Cantor sings it once (using the microphone in the Canon’s stall), then the choir and congregation sing it once combined. The response is then repeated by all after each set of verses (the verses being sung by

the solo cantor). The Gloria is not sung. After the Responsorial Psalm the cantor returns to the stalls and the choir sits.

As soon as the second reading is over, the choir stands and sings the **Alleluia**. The choir sings from the printed order of service and the organist plays the harmonised version from the “Music for the Eucharist” booklet provided.

The organist sounds an octave F and the choir sings the Alleluia once. It is then repeated with the congregation (with much louder organ accompaniment). The Gospel sentence follows (sung in harmony from the separate sheet provided) and then the Alleluia is sung one final time by the congregation and choir.

Immediately after the sentence “Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*” the organ sounds a loud octave B flat. The choir and congregation then sing “Glory to you, O Christ” in unison on a B flat, moving to A on the word “Lord”. This is harmonised by the organist.

After the Deacon says “This is the Gospel of the Lord” the organ sounds another loud octave B flat. The choir and congregation sing “Praise to you, O Christ” in unison on a B flat, moving to A on the word “Christ”. This is again harmonised by the organist.

The organist then improvises until the procession returns to the podium and the preacher is in the pulpit. This usually takes about 30 seconds.

We do not turn east for the **Creed**.

Allow about 20 seconds for the peace to be exchanged before beginning the **Offertory hymn**. The organist should improvise afterwards until the collection has been brought to the altar and blessed AND the censuring has finished (the altar will be censed first, then the choir, then the nave).

The organist will find harmonisations for the Sursum Corda and Acclamation in the “Music for the Eucharist” booklet. The printed intonations should be played quietly to give the President / Deacon their note. The organ should then lead the congregation and choir clearly and quite loudly in the replies.

The **Benedictus** is normally sung during the Communion but may be sung immediately after the **Sanctus** if both are short.

A tenor G-B flat-G should be given promptly for the President to sing “Through Christ and with Christ...”.

During the Communion, the **Benedictus** (if not already sung), **Agnus Dei** and **Communion motet** are sung. The choir receives Communion after the congregation. The organist plays until the choir has received and is back in the stalls and the President is at the altar.

At the end of the service, the voluntary begins immediately and the choir follows the Crucifer and clergy in procession (out the short way) via the South Choir Aisle and to the crypt. No prayer is said.

The choir is warmly invited to join the congregation for coffee in the Chapter House after the service.

