

Impact of H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu) on our Liturgical Practices.

While the threat of Human Swine Flu Influenza contact is a serious problem in Australia at present, some prudent changes in our parish Liturgical Practices are recommended until the situation has improved. Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist should carefully wash their hands both before and after distributing Holy Communion.

Holy Communion should only be distributed under the species of the Consecrated Host and not the Chalice to limit the spread of germs during the H1N1 epidemic. During the Sign of Peace instead of shaking hands, it is recommended to simply nod the head and avoid bodily contact.

Prudence suggests that the reception of Holy Communion be on the hand while taking into account the option which the Holy See provides in this matter, however to be safe, prudence strongly suggests both for the care of the Minister and the Communicant, Communion be received on the hand. The situation will be kept under review and these guidelines revoked when the situation improves.