



**LITURGY OFFICE**  
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

## **Guidelines on using Catholic chapels for non-Catholic, Christian prayer services in the Archdiocese of Sydney**

1. Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney fosters and supports Christian prayer. Therefore, in principle, it is open to requests from non-Catholic Christian communities to use Catholic chapels for the purpose of prayer, especially in places such as hospitals and aged care facilities.
2. The main point of reference in matters related to sharing prayer spaces is the Holy See's document "Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism" issued by Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (1993), especially paragraphs 137-142.
3. Using Catholic chapels for non-Catholic Christian prayer services should always take place in consultation with the local Catholic pastor who is responsible for the Catholic chapel in question.
4. Using Catholic chapels for non-Catholic Christian prayer services should be scheduled in advance.
5. In a great number of Catholic chapels in hospitals and aged care facilities, the Blessed Sacrament is kept in a tabernacle. Due reverence and respect towards the Blessed Sacrament should always be kept in mind by those who use these Catholic chapels for prayer, including those Christian communities who do not share the Catholic faith in the Real Presence.
  - a. Actions that reasonably could be seen as disrespectful toward the Blessed Sacrament should be avoided.
  - b. In some cases, and for legitimate reasons, the local Catholic pastor may decide to move the Blessed Sacrament from the Catholic chapel to another suitable place, e.g. the parish church, for the time of the duration of the non-Catholic Christian prayer service. This, however, should not be the norm, and it should not give the impression as if the Blessed Sacrament was somehow "in the way" of any activity that would take place in the chapel.
6. The details of any arrangements regarding the use of the Catholic chapel by a non-Catholic community should always be discussed with the local Catholic pastor. In case of doubts, the Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese should be contacted for advice.

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