

## **COPYRIGHT - PUBLISHING AND BROADCASTING ONLINE**

Bible translations, liturgical texts, hymns and religious images are all subject to copyright. Using these materials in various contexts requires both permission and generally the payment of fees.

Social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube have both automated and manual processes for monitoring the use of copyrighted content, and routinely remove or block posts found to be in violation of copyright.

**Copyright is a matter to be taken seriously, as publishers of music and written material often strenuously exercise their rights to intellectual property and will take action, including legal action. Given the use of webcams, Facebook and YouTube, it is relatively easy for copyright holders to assert their rights.**

To assist your parish avoid copyright infringement I have outlined a few solutions for liturgical text, image use and music.

## **LITURGICAL TEXT - REPRODUCING DAILY MASS READINGS**

**SOLUTION:** Universalis Publishing

**Link:** <https://universalis.com/europe.ireland/mass.htm>

For the daily reading Universalis Publishing say "We do not want you to do anything that might infringe or weaken our copyright, so we must ask you to contact us before you reproduce anything from our website or app. We'll normally be happy to let you reproduce as long as (a) you don't do it for gain and (b) you credit us, with our Web address ([www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)) and (c) we judge the quantity, frequency, and purpose to be reasonable".

It is important to appreciate that Universalis does not own the copyright for Readings and Mass texts, so their permission does not enable you to produce a Mass leaflet using their website. To help you, please see the use of the Universalis QR code below.

They recommend you add a link to their site (<https://universalis.com/europe.ireland/mass.htm>) from your website or social media channels.

### **Share on your parish Facebook page**

Consider too sharing this link (<https://universalis.com/europe.ireland/mass.htm>) in the comments if you use Facebook Live to broadcast Mass.



### Use the Universalis QR code

If you wished to share the Universalis link with your parishioners, we have produced this handy poster you can download and print for display on your chapel noticeboard: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/images/documents/guidelines/universalis-todays-readings-qr.pdf>. Available also on page 4 of this document

Pointing your smart phone camera at this QR code will take you straight to the Universalis readings for Ireland. Most people have smart phones and QR codes are widely used, including when making purchases from supermarkets, so many people will be aware of what QR codes are.

We suggest a few uses:

**In a YouTube or Facebook live video** - when streaming a live Mass put the QR code on the screen at the time the readings start or before Mass, so that anyone viewing can use the code to see the Mass Readings page in Universalis.

**At your welcome hand sanitiser station** - put the QR code at the sanitiser station, so that any visitor can point their camera phone at the code, and be able to follow the readings during Mass.

### GRAPHIC IMAGES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Most images on the internet search engines (including Google Images) should not be used in liturgical materials, on your parish website, newsletter, parish bulletin or your parish social media channels as you most certainly will be infringing copyright.

#### **SOLUTION:** Royalty free stock image libraries

These libraries trade under a royalty-free license, which lets you use their images almost any way you please.

Once an image is purchased it can be used as many times as you wish. It is handy to build a set of images for the full liturgical calendar so the main investment is in year one.

#### **Suggested Sources:**

<https://www.shutterstock.com> - prices start from £29 per month for up to 10 images

<https://www.istockphoto.com> - prices start from £7 per image or £25 per month subscription.

<https://stock.adobe.com> - prices start from £19.99 + Vat per month subscription. They also offer a credit pack system. 5 credits start at £29.95 + Vat per month. Most images are worth 1 credit.

#### **Subscription explained**

A stock library subscription is usually a monthly subscription that enables you to purchase a limited number of images each month. It may be affordable in the first year to enable you to build a set of images for the liturgical year. Beyond the first year it would be prudent to end the subscription. In most instances using the credit system is more economical if you are using only a few images.



## **MUSIC – BROADCASTING ON WEBCAM, YOUTUBE or FACEBOOK**

During liturgies parishes may be tempted to use recorded music – CDs or downloaded music. This is often not legally possible and may infringe music copyright. When a CD or track of downloaded music is purchased, the conditions of sale include a restriction that it is only for personal use and cannot be used publicly or broadcast. Copyright holders can assert their rights over a breach of these restrictions.

Social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube have both automated and manual processes for monitoring the use of copyrighted content, and routinely remove or block posts found to be in violation of copyright.

### **Music at funerals – if broadcasting or recording on Webcam, YouTube or Facebook**

If a family wishes a taped piece of music to be played at a funeral, this will cause the same copyright infringement issues in respect of broadcasting, if the funeral is recorded or broadcast online.

### **A license from One License**

One License only applies if a parish is printing a worship aid / a participation aid for the congregation. This includes the printing of the words of hymns on a sheet, but not the music, or the projection of words onto screen. It does not cover Webcam, YouTube, Facebook broadcasting or playing a music CD in a church.

An additional OneLicense Podcast / Streaming License Bundle will need to be purchased to permit both pre-recorded content and content that is streamed live (webcam). Content may be posted to your organization's website, YouTube, Facebook, Zoom, Vimeo, Instagram, and other forms of internet-based communication.

Full details are in appendix at the end of this document – (One License).

**Please note that the permission to print words of hymns applies only to the period of licensing and the permission expires when the license ends.**

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**GDPR and photo permissions.** Each parish must ensure consent has been given and a record kept from those who will feature in any video, photographs or webcam, YouTube or Facebook broadcasts



View today's Mass readings  
on your phone

**One License**  
www.onelicense.net

**What is One License?**

It is a licensing agency with the aim of supporting congregations while ensuring that authors, composers, and publishers receive the appropriate royalties for their work.

**What is One License's legal status in Ireland?**

It is registered in the UK as an entity for collecting VAT. It is in the process of registering for VAT in Ireland as well. One License has only existed in Ireland since July 1 2019. (Before that the Calamus license operated in Ireland).

**When is a license from One License required?**

Each parish requires its own license where there is congregational singing – drawn from material other than what is printed in hymnals e.g. Veritas Hymnal.

A One License Podcast / Streaming License Bundle permits both pre-recorded content and content that is streamed live (by webcam). Content may be posted to your organization's website, YouTube, Facebook, Zoom, Vimeo, Instagram, and other forms of internet-based communication.

**When is a license from One License not required?**

- (a) When there is no congregational singing.
- (b) When the congregation uses hymnals e.g. Veritas Hymnal, copyright is already paid.
- (c) No license is required for 'public domain' hymns e.g. *Abide with me*.

**What about Choirs?**

One License is not a license for music used by the choir or the organist or the choir director. Full music scores for choirs and musicians are not available from the One License website, nor is their use covered by the One License. These are a separate expense.

**When would a parish need a license from One License?**

If there is congregational singing using music from publishers other than what is in hymnals or public domain hymns.

If a parish needs to print leaflets with music for Christmas – a license is required. If a parish is producing a leaflet with music for First Communion, again, it needs to have a license from One License to do this legally. These printings are covered in a parish annual license fee.

**If a diocese has a license does this remove the obligation to have single use licenses for weddings, Confirmations and other special once off events?**

If a parish has an annual license, it would cover all the functions at the parish, including weddings, confirmations, funerals, and other special worship services and so remove the obligation to have special once off licenses.

Comment: One License downloads are more practical and user-friendly than buying a copy of a hymnal for every parishioner. A parish can compile its own parish hymnal under One License.

## **Playing CDs in Church**

If you play a CD in a church (in the liturgy or outside of it), this is not covered by One License. A parish should have a separate **IMRO** license in order to play a CD in church.

## **What does having a license from One License entitle you to do?**

One License only applies if a parish is printing a worship aid / a participation aid for *the congregation*. Having a license gives a church access to thousands of songs from the top liturgical music publishers around the world, including Irish composers. The administrative obligation is minimal...maybe five minutes per week. Reporting is very quick...the site automatically keeps track of frequently used songs, and it is easy to copy music from one week to another week, create worklists of favourite songs, or search for songs. Keep in mind that the license does not cover music used by the choir members themselves...a parish choirdirector would still need to purchase music for the choir, organist, pianist, or any instrumentalists.

## **Practical Example**

The key figure is the number of worshippers in a diocese on a Sunday. For example, a diocese of 60,000 Catholics and 30 parishes has a 25% practice rate, therefore 15,000 worshippers, spread over its 30 parishes. The average attendance per parish is 500. This figure lies within the 401-700 range for pricing. The regular price is €325 per parish = €9,750 per annum. If a diocesan license is purchased, then there is a 30% discount and the cost will be reduced by €2925 to €6825. The few parishes that broadcast their liturgy on webcam would pay an additional license of c €100.

## **Administration**

There is an obligation to pay the fee and also to report usage of hymns. Reporting usage enables One License to pay the musicians. Reporting is carried out on-line by each parish every week or every few months. If reports are not filed, friendly reminders are sent. There is the possibility of an app being developed. Reports help OL to accurately pay royalties to composers and artists.

**Please note that the permission to print words of hymns applies only to the period of licensing and the permission expires when the license ends.**

## **Irish Bishops Conference**

The Irish Bishops' Conference needs to register as a copyright holder with One License. In this way it will receive royalties to which it is entitled.

## **What about schools?**

Schools singing from a textbook likely have songs legitimately licensed by the textbook publisher. Schools with regular worship services that prepare song sheets for the assembly or project music on a screen should have a One License licence. These would be purchased and maintained by management of the school rather than by the Diocese.

## **Thoughts**

'Compliance' is the driver, 'Justice' is the motivation, and 'More widespread congregational singing' is the hoped for beneficial outcome.