

# COPYRIGHT INFORMATION ON STREAMING AND VIDEORECORDING LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE AND OFFICE NATIONAL DE LITURGIE

During the time in which public worship has been restricted by health authorities because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many parishes have started to stream and/or record Eucharistic celebrations and post them online on different social media platforms such as Youtube, Facebook, Zoom, Vimeo, etc.

You will find below copyright information on how to provide proper attributions when streaming liturgical music according to copyright laws and standards, as well as information on specific measures that have been put in place for the use of liturgical texts during the pandemic. This information may be revised at any time as the situation evolves.

## LITURGICAL MUSIC

Licensing and reporting the usage of copyrighted material ensures that composers, authors and publishers are compensated fairly for their work which greatly enriches our liturgical celebrations.

Hymns and prayers that are in the public domain do not require a permission to livestream or reproduce on screen or on paper. However, you should always acknowledge the author and/or composer where appropriate. In Canada, copyrighted material generally falls in the public domain 50 years after the death of the author or composer. You will find more information on the term of copyright in the [Copyright Act](#).

**Note:** A song may have more than one copyright holder. For example, the copyright for the lyrics of a song may belong to Author A and Author B, while the copyright for the music belongs to Composer C. In order to reprint the lyrics and the music, you would need permission from all copyright holders, i.e., Author A, Author B and Composer C.

In the same way, if the music of a hymn is in the public domain, but the lyrics are still under copyright, you would need to obtain a license or permission to livestream or reproduce the lyrics. If both the melody and the text are in the public domain but the harmonization or accompaniment are still protected under copyright, you would need to obtain a license or permission to livestream the song or hymn. For example, the lyrics and melody of the hymn “Be Joyful, Mary, Heav’nly Queen” are both in the public domain, but the harmonization is copyrighted by St. Michael’s Choir School. To stream that hymn, you would need permission from St. Michael’s Choir School to use its harmonization.

## ENGLISH SECTOR

No matter the platform used, all music and text used in a livestream, unless in the public domain, requires a podcast / streaming license.

Additional licensing is required if song lyrics and/or melody lines will be included in the stream (e.g., displayed on the screen) or made available online as a downloadable resource.

Please contact One License to obtain appropriate license(s) and permission(s) for music and text used during livestream celebrations. Their staff will provide assistance and helpful information on properly reporting parish usage of materials covered by the license.

[One License](#)  
[info@onelicense.net](mailto:info@onelicense.net)  
1-800-ONE-1501  
708-458-5900

If you wish to use material from the *Catholic Book of Worship*, *Celebrate in Song* or the *Psalms for Sundays and Solemnities* series that is not covered by One License, you may send a request to [permissions@cccb.ca](mailto:permissions@cccb.ca) to obtain permission to use the material or to obtain the contact information of the copyright holder to whom the request should be addressed. Please outline the material that you would like to use by title and hymn number.

## FRENCH SECTOR

While the [Secrétariat des éditeurs de chants pour la liturgie](#) (SECLI) provides licenses to reprint or project most of the hymns found in *D'une même voix*, it does not offer streaming or podcasting licenses at this time. If you are planning on reproducing the lyrics or melody lines of the music in a worship aid or displaying it on screen, please obtain a license from the SECLI.

For now, if you are only streaming copyrighted material from *D'une même voix*, please acknowledge the author, composer and publisher of the hymns where appropriate. Further instructions will be issued when available and if necessary.

## DISPLAYING TEXT ON SCREEN AND WORSHIP AIDS

It may be tempting to display on the screen the texts of the Mass or the readings of the day during the livestreaming of a celebration. However, this practice is discouraged since the Church invites the faithful to listen actively to the Word of God. Different resources, such as [Living with Christ](#), and [Prions en Église](#), are now available without charge from the publisher to help people prepare in advance of the upcoming celebration.

If parts of the Mass are proclaimed in another language during a bilingual (or multilingual) celebration, it may be appropriate to provide a separate worship aid or to display on the screen that text in the other language. If you choose to do so, you should include the copyright acknowledgement where appropriate (e.g., below the reading or in the credits). To obtain the copyright acknowledgement that should be used in a particular case, please contact [permissions@cccb.ca](mailto:permissions@cccb.ca).

## STREAMING LITURGICAL TEXTS DURING COVID-19

This information is valid for the duration of the restrictions put in place in your city, diocese/eparchy or province/territory due to COVID-19 for public gatherings such as during liturgical celebrations. This information may be revised at any time as the situation evolves and the restrictions change.

### MASS TEXTS AND RESPONSES

For the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy is waiving permission requirements for texts and prayers from the *Roman Missal* or other approved rituals to allow dioceses and parishes to livestream their Liturgical Celebrations.

Likewise, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is also waiving permission requirements to livestream texts from the *Missel romain* and other rituals in French that are copyrighted by the Association épiscopale liturgique pour les pays francophones (AELF) and administered in Canada by the CCCB.

### PSALMS AND READINGS

The CCCB is also waiving permission requirements for parishes and dioceses/eparchies to livestream the psalms and readings excerpted from the CCCB Lectionaries and which are used during liturgical celebrations.

The permission requirements are also waived to livestream excerpts taken from all of the approved Lectionaries in French that are copyrighted by the AELF and administered in Canada by the CCCB.

For other questions about licensing and copyright not addressed above, please contact [permissions@cccb.ca](mailto:permissions@cccb.ca).