



A Communal Communion?

The dispensation from Bishop, which he mentioned in his sermon, was released on 28th July and we print it here below. I have written a Vicar Writes on the meaning of the Holy Communion which I hope you will take some time to reflect on.

We have received some good feedback on the experience of Holy Communion at home. One powerful aspect of the Lord's Supper is the communal experience of breaking bread and praying together, something which is difficult to achieve in our large Services. The Last Supper was conducted in the context of a communal meal for a small gathering and this continued in the life of the early church. Over the years, this has become a tightly guarded church practice, no

doubt cautioned by Paul's cautions (see 1 Corinthians 11:17ff) and to avoid superstitious practices. We would expect today's Singaporeans to be un-superstitious but alas, in some circles, it has become so. We can understand Bishop's and our clergy's cautious approach as expressed in this dispensation. That said, how we approach the practice of home communion depends a lot on our hearts and attitudes and it is a precious discipling moment as we take responsibility for our worship and fellowship with one another.

We appreciate your feedback and it is likely that SAC will consider another online Communion sometime in September. Pray with us.





Dispensation on the Forms of Administering Holy Communion

Based on the rationale and teaching presented in the paper on 'Holy Communion in COVID Conditions' (dated 4 July 2020), and aided by a Study paper by Bishop-Designate Canon Dr Titus Chung and team titled 'Proposal for the Breaking of Bread by a Church Community that is Connected by Electronic Means' (4 June 2020) which was discussed at various leadership platforms:

*We, the Bishop of Singapore, grant a Dispensation for parishes and congregations in the Archdeaconry of Singapore to practice one or more of the following three forms of administering Holy Communion during the period **2 August 2020 to 31 October 2020** to address the extraordinary situation posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- 1. Holy Communion Service to a congregation that physically gathers in a manner that satisfies the safety standards specified by the national authorities for religious organisations.*
- 2. Holy Communion by extension from a common table, whereby Diocesan authorised persons distribute pre-consecrated elements to dispersed households or small groups at their respective locations using a simple worship liturgy.*
- 3. Holy Communion through an Online Service with Good Controls to a Congregation that is electronically present and connected. (See Section II.C of the Teaching paper dated 4 July 2020).*

May all things be done with faith and love, and in good order to exalt the Lord and strengthen His church for missions and ministry.