**Context**

The Confraternity Carnival is coordinated by the Management Committee of QISSRL (Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Rugby League) and hosted by member schools. There is a need to very clear about expectations for the Opening Mass. Whilst host schools will add their particular “flavour” to the Opening Mass there are certain expectations that all host schools must meet.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this advice is to name aspects of best practice for the Opening Mass. Host schools need to adhere to the basic principles of this advice and consult with the QISSRL Management Committee about any significant changes.

**Guidelines**

Host schools are advised to:

Ensure that the Mass is well prepared and adheres to the following

* the liturgy is the liturgy of the Sunday with the possibility of some changes given the context
* the space that is designed for the Mass adheres to liturgical requirements and encourages maximum participation of the gathered teams
* words of songs and Mass parts are easily seen on screens around the venue
* readers are well-rehearsed
* sufficient Special Ministers of Communion are available to distribute Communion and / or give a blessing
* instructions are clear to schools with respect to the reception of Holy Communion and the option to receive a blessing
* music and singing needs to be incorporated – Mass parts ought be the first priority and from there the processional song, recessional song, and a song for thanksgiving.
* singing needs to be practised before Mass
* the text of the Mass plus relevant books (Book of the Gospels, Missal, etc.) need to be provided
* liaise with the priest who will be the celebrant at least two weeks before the Mass to ensure that all requirements are met
* provide all liturgical resources (except for the priest’s vestments), including sufficient altar breads & wine
* have a plan for the removal of any consecrated hosts at the end of the Mass

By:

* speaking with the students prior to the Opening Mass and practise any singing with the gathered teams
* ensuring that words of songs and Mass parts are easily read
* encouraging participation through Mass responses and singing
* establishing the tone for the celebration of the Mass
* providing musical backing (instruments & players) and singers to lead singing
* liaise with the local parish, QISSRL Management Committee, diocesan authorities

Host schools are asked NOT to:

* merge the Opening Ceremony with Mass – they need to be understood as two distinct events