



From Notes to Praise: Practical Skills for Parish Musicians

Course Description

This five-week short course, offered by the Archdiocesan Commission on the Liturgy and led by Dr Anthony Young, offers an enjoyable and practical introduction to singing and music reading for parish and school musicians.

Through hands-on learning and shared music-making, participants will gain confidence in using their voices, reading and interpreting written music, and singing in harmony. The sessions will draw on familiar sacred repertoire – music that can be used immediately in parish settings – while deepening understanding of how music serves the Church’s prayer.

Whether you’re a cantor, choir member, teacher, or instrumentalist, this course will equip you with the foundational skills and renewed enthusiasm to support the sung worship of your community.

Aims / Objectives

- **Develop confidence in using their voice** for liturgical singing, with attention to pitch, tone, vocal technique and expression.
- **Gain foundational music-reading skills**, including understanding rhythm, melody, notation, and key signatures.
- **Learn to sing in parts and create harmony** within a group setting.
- **Apply new skills to familiar sacred repertoire**, enhancing participation in parish and school liturgies. Finding easy ways to improve the musicianship of those we lead.
- **Deepen understanding of the role of music in the Church’s worship**, recognising how musicians serve the prayer of the assembly.
- **Build community through shared music-making**, fostering collaboration and joy in ministry.

Key Content / Topics

- **The basics of music notation** – rhythm, pitch, key and time signatures.
- **Reading and interpreting melody lines** from common liturgical repertoire.
- **Developing vocal technique** – breath, tone, and projection for congregational singing.
- **Singing in harmony** – understanding intervals and part-singing through practical exercises.
- **Making music together** – learning by doing through sacred pieces used in parish life.
- **Connecting music and liturgy** – exploring how musical choices support the prayer and rhythm of the Mass.
- **Resources for ongoing growth** – simple ways to continue developing music reading and vocal skills beyond the course.

Course Format

- **Duration:** 5 weeks
- **Delivery mode:** In-person
- **Session times:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- **Dates:**
 - Tuesday 4 November
 - Tuesday 11 November
 - Tuesday 18 November
 - Tuesday 25 November
 - Tuesday 2 December

Venue & Logistics

- **Venue:** Hanly Room, St Stephen's Cathedral Precinct
- **Parking:** Cathedral carpark available

Audience

- Parish musicians (keyboard players, guitarists, singers, choir directors) and parishioners
- Teachers and liturgy coordinators in schools
- Anyone involved in parish music ministry wanting to strengthen foundational skills

Registration Details

- **Registration link:** <https://liturgybrisbaneworkshops.weebly.com/fromnotestopraise-novdec25.html>
- **Cost:** \$75 for the full course
- **Enquiries:** schwantesc@bne.catholic.net.au or 3324 3321
- **Registration deadline:** Friday 31 October

REGISTER NOW



Dr Anthony Young is Coordinator of Culture and Solidarity at St. Laurence's College South Brisbane where he runs the liturgical music program, widely known for the enthusiastic singing of the students, as well teaching Music and English and conducting choirs. He is Director of Music at St. Ignatius Parish Toowong and works for the Archdiocesan Commission of Liturgy. He has conducted several liturgies for the archdiocese, featuring massed choirs and orchestras. A recipient a Spirit of Catholic Education Award, he is a sessional lecturer in Musicianship at the University of Queensland and conducts the Queensland Conservatorium Chorus. His research has been published by ACER, Springer, and Oxford University Press, the International Journal of Choral Education, the journal of the Australian National Choral Association and the National Kodaly Journal. Having contributed to music ministry in the Catholic Church for over 40 years, he remains strongly committed to the evangelisation of young people through formation as church musicians.