



**Regional Liturgy Commission**  
Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei  
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**Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Liturgical Commission (RLC) Meeting**  
**Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Kuala Lumpur**  
**Tuesday 27 April to Friday 29 April 2010**

**PRESENT**

Rt Rev Anthony Lee  
Fr Vincent Chin  
Mrs Eileen Ng  
Fr John Yoew  
Mr Vincent Yong  
Fr Gilbert Lasius  
Fr Cosmas Lee  
Mr Neil Mah  
Fr Leonard Lexson  
Dr Chan Lek-Lim  
Fr Francis Xavier  
Fr Richard Lau  
Fr Patrick Massang

**Attendees:**

Mr Anthony Liew  
Sr Theresa Chay  
Mr Morris Jinni  
Mrs Agatha Chung  
Ms Madonna Francis  
Ms Sandra Ann  
Ms Shalet Perix  
Mr R.K.Samy  
Mr Raymond Dicom  
Ms Regina Fong  
Mrs Jaclyn Ann  
Mr Rocky Loo

**Absent with Apologies:**

Fr Robert Leong  
Mrs Amy Yong  
Fr John Chia  
Mr George James Anung  
Fr Ignatius Yeo  
Fr John Joseph(JJ) Fenelon  
Fr Christopher Lee

**DIOCESE**

Bishop of Miri, Chair  
Kuching, Executive Secretary  
Singapore, Secretary  
Malacca & Johor  
Malacca & Johor  
Keningau  
Kota Kinabalu  
Kota Kinabalu  
Kuala Lumpur  
Kuching  
Penang  
Sibu  
CSsr

Brunei  
Malacca & Johor  
Keningau  
Keningau  
Kuala Lumpur  
Kuala Lumpur  
Kuala Lumpur  
Kuala Lumpur  
Kuala Lumpur  
Kuala Lumpur  
Penang  
Penang

Brunei  
Malacca & Johor  
Miri  
Miri  
Singapore  
Singapore  
Singapore

*Sandakan has no representation.*

Fr Vincent opened the meeting with a prayer followed by Bishop Lee who expressed his gratitude to members for their presence. He also welcomed the new attendees and Fr Patrick who had been absent for a long time. Members were also informed that Fr Paul Lo of Sandakan has been given a new appointment, and a replacement is yet to be appointed.

**Matters Arising**

*Terms of reference in the Minutes: "Members" refers to all who were present in the RLC meeting.*

S/N	ITEMS	ACTION BY
1.	<b><u>Confirmation of 11<sup>th</sup> RLC Minutes 2009:</u></b> Minutes was confirmed by Neil Mah and seconded by Vincent Yong.	
2.	<b><u>Report of the Executive Secretary:</u></b> Fr Vincent distributed: (a) Finance report of the RLC 2009. (b) Statement of accounts from the sale of the GIRM and <i>Know Your Mass</i> books. He would proceed with the third reprint of the GIRM books if there is a minimum order of 600 copies. The cost is RM5 exclusive of transport and the recommended retail price is RM6. There is still available stock of the <i>Know Your Mass</i> book (400) and members are encouraged to take up orders for there might be no reprint. The cost is RM 5 (inclusive of transport) and recommended retail price is similar to the GIRM.	~ All to garner orders for the two books by first week of August 2010.
2.1	Members were reminded that the proceeds of the sale of books published by the Secretariat are towards the RLC fund. The <i>Know Your Mass</i> book is a project of the RLC through the kind courtesy of the Archbishop of Kuching who gave the copyrights to the RLC, to aid its fund raising efforts.	
3.	<b><u>7 Days Prayer Service at Home Book:</u></b> (a) The book is a guide for people who pray at home without priests to lead them. (b) Members have been deliberating its text for the past two years already. (c) As soon as the texts are finalised, a copy will be forward to Fr. Gilbert Lasius for translation into BM.	Fr. V Chin/Fr. G Lasius
3.1	<b><u>Views from members:</u></b> (e) Some do not pray for seven days only; there are occasions of 40 or 100 days of prayer – according to culture. (f) After some deliberation, it was decided to drop the word "days" and hence the new title of the booklet will be "Seven Prayer services at Home" (c) Members are to encourage their dioceses to support	~ All to send new orders direct to Fr Vincent by first week of August 2010.

3.2	<p>the book and give their book by 1<sup>st</sup> week of August.</p> <p>Bishop Lee is to inform the Catholic Bishops' Conference (CBC MSB) about the publication of this book.</p>	~ Bishop Lee
4.	<p><b>Asian Liturgy Forum (ALF) Status:</b></p> <p>(a) Fr Chupungco and Bishop Lee drew a letter and sent it to the President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) at the end of the ALF 2009. To date there is neither reply nor receipt of the said letter.</p> <p>(b) The secretary is to follow up with Fr Chupungco for any news from FABC.</p> <p><b>Brief History of ALF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up in the early 1990's</li> <li>- Bishop Anthony was appointed President and Fr Chupungco the secretary.</li> <li>- At the first meeting, nearly all countries in Asia participated, but through the years more participants from south-east Asia. Taiwan came on board later and has since remained a faithful and regular participant. Reps from Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar were introduced in recent years through the initiative of the late Fr Phaisal of Thailand.</li> <li>- For a long time the ALF has been running on its own steam due to the support of Bishop Lee, work of Fr Chupungco and the support of the South-East Asian members.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.2 Action Proposed by Members for ALF and the recognition of its status by FABC and CBCMSB</b></p> <p><b>Predisposition:</b></p> <p>(a) FABC needs to recognise that liturgy is the source and life of the Church and a chair for liturgy should be established in FABC.</p> <p>(b) FABC should recognise that ALF is doing important work in keeping up the liturgical life of the Asian churches through the annual forum.</p> <p>(c) Likewise, the CBCMSB should not be apathetic towards the ALF, instead credit it for bringing the liturgists in the region together and suggesting solutions for the inculturation of Church's liturgical norms in view of the cultural and racial context of the local people.</p> <p>(d) The ALF should not continue to discuss topical issues for very soon it will run out of topics.</p> <p>(e) To have a more value-added agenda, besides the usual reports, there should be an open forum on current</p>	<p><i>(Fr Chupungco email reply on 6 May 2010: He met with the FABC secretary general on February 2010 and was informed that the chair for the liturgy would be established and Fr Chupungco was the likely candidate. Fr however felt he was too old but was willing to establish the post and pass it to a younger candidate. No further word from the FABC since. )</i></p> <p><i>(Email reply of Fr Chupunco on 6 May 2010: He fully concurs with the members' suggestions for the ALF</i></p>

<p>4.3</p>	<p>liturgical concerns and issues and discussions by participants on the paper presented by Fr Chupungco.</p> <p>(f) The secretary is to communicate all the above suggestions with Fr Chupungco.</p> <p><b>ALF Preparation</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Penang</b> - updated the members on the preparation and the following needs attention:</p> <p>(1) Venue at Stella Maris Retreat Centre.</p> <p>(2) Registration either online or faxed.</p> <p>(3) If any diocese wishes to contribute toward the conference souvenir to be included for the participants, the quantum is 100.</p> <p>(4) It is considering inviting the main committee of the RLC to be part of the welcoming party for many have professed that they were quite lost on arrival at airport, etc., they being unfamiliar with the greeters. However, members felt that the problem could be easily solved with the greeters holding big placards with names of the persons whom they are meeting clearly displayed.</p>	<p><i>agenda and will incorporate them in the forthcoming ALF.)</i></p> <p>Representatives of each diocese</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p><b>Presentation on the theme “Sacrament of Baptism, its pastoral and liturgical issues”.</b></p> <p>~ <b>Pastoral and liturgical Issues to include the following:</b></p> <p>(i) Infant /young adults baptisms</p> <p>(2) Community involvement</p> <p>(3) Post-baptismal care - <i>mystygogia</i></p> <p>~ <b>Two or three presentations:</b></p> <p>(1) Singapore.</p> <p>(2) Malaysia (East and West) and even Brunei if it wishes to incorporate with it.</p> <p>(3) For Malaysia, Neil is the coordinator of all inputs from the dioceses. He will give the scope of the presentation latest end May 2010 and members are to return to him all information by 4 July 2010.</p>	<p>- All to note deadline and reply Neil.</p> <p><b>Nota Bene:</b> All written presentations to be sent to Penang early so they can be printed into a booklet.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Funeral Rites Booklet</b></p> <p>(a) A revision of the first edition produced by the archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>(b) The Kuala Lumpur Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission will assist with the additional editing and vetting and the final text will be circulated to members before production.</p> <p>(c) The editorial team was reminded at this meeting that they should remember to keep to official terms of reference when reviewing the text.</p> <p>(d) There is no need to obtain Rome’s approval for the</p>	

book as it is not a guide to a sacrament.  
 (e) To look into additional services for aborted babies, suicides, All Souls Day service at the cemetery, etc.  
 (f) Members unanimously agreed that a separate booklet for the text on the funeral service without a priest is inconvenient. Thus, it should be incorporated into one book – a guide to funeral service with and without priest.  
 (g) Members also noted that the priest is only needed at the Mass; all other rites can be done by a lay minister.

6. **Formation and Implementation of the newly approved Mass Text**  
 ~ **Formation Programmes:**  
 (a) Two possible programmes could be used, either the Federation of Diocesan Liturgy Commission (FDLC) from the US and the Leeds Group UK headed by Cardinal Roche. The afore-said programmes are bundled with DVDs.  
 (b) Fr Vincent circulated the comprehensive formation guide for priests and laity from FDLC. The one from the Leeds Group is still awaiting *recognitio* from Rome.  
 (c) DVDs are still not available from both sources.  
 ~ **Views of the New Roman Missal expressed by members:**  
 (1) The Chinese translation keeps close to Latin.  
 (2) Only the English translation has drawn much debate and protests among the English speaking countries.  
 (3) Bishop Lee will present the programmes to the CBC in July 2010

*Music for the new Mass text available at*  
<http://www.icelweb.org/musicfolder/openmusic.php>

- Fr Vincent will draft the summary of current position of the New Roman Missal and the two formation programmes for Bishop Lee.

7. **Information from Liturgical Music Committee(LMC) of Singapore and its service to RLC:**  
**Singapore Situation:**  
 (1) Copyrights are strictly enforced in Singapore. An international body Christian Copyrights International (CCI) has already established an office here.  
 (2) The *Sing Your Praise to God* (SYPG) though a regional hymnal approved by CBCMSB is deemed not suitable because various parishes have inserted their own/favourite hymns whether appropriate/copyrighted or not. The original selection of hymns is hence lost among these unauthorised additions.  
 (3) Projection and reprint of music scores/words are separate copyright issues.  
 (4) Buying hymnals published by foreign publishers with inherent copyrights are too exorbitant.  
**Singapore Solution:**

- (1) LMC selected a list of hymns and circulated it to all parishes for them to study and add their own commonly sung hymns to the list, if they so wish.
- (2) The list with its new additions was shortlisted by LMC using the Church documents as its barometer.
- (3) The final list of 300 hymns appropriate for various occasions and seasons was then uploaded on its website for which ever choir or parish that needs it.
- (4) There is no copyright concern for the 300 hymns as they are also available in the public domain.
- (5) All choirs are advised to give credit to composers in their projection of the hymns.
- (6) These are the stop-gap measures until such time the archdiocese resolves the copyright issue.

7.1

**Members' Recommendations to LMC in the RLC context:**

- (a) Members commends the LMC for its assiduous work for the archdiocese of Singapore
- (b) SYPG obviously needs to be revised and in view of the LMC work for the hymn list in Singapore, it is deemed to be the best body to do the same for SYPG. It could get the original SYPG hymnal from the Majodi Centre in Johor, for it is believed to be still printing them.
- (c) Malaysia might not have the same rigid or strict copyright laws as Singapore, but it is the moral thing to do. Moreover, Brunei informed that it had cases of fines imposed on copyright infringements.
- (d) The copyrights law in Malaysia should be studied by a competent Malaysian lawyer.
- (e) A similar exercise (gathering list of hymns, etc.) could be done for the Malaysian diocese.
- (f) The RLC could as its future project, produce a hymnal with copyrights, proper binding and strict order for no unauthorised additions.

- Fr JJ to oversee the exercise.

- Fr Vincent to consult some lawyers.

*Note: RLC did attempt to revise the SYPG hymnal some years back and each diocese were assigned different parts to review and the whole exercise took three years. In the end, many hymns were found to be without copyrights and at that time no one knew where to apply for copyrights and Bishops in the Conference at that time did not think it was an important issue and each diocese was to handle this issue on their own.*

8.

**Sunday Service in the Absence of a Priest – A Presider's Edition (An Archdiocesan Attempt):**

- (1) Members felt the text needs reviewing on the

	<p>following:</p> <p>(a) Terms of reference should be similar with the official documents (The Directory on Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest).</p> <p>(b) Prayers</p> <p>(c) Should the term be “Service” or “Celebration”?</p> <p>(d) Fr. Vincent agreed to the change of title to “the Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest”. At the same time, look into the Presider’s prayer especially the prayers after communion to reflect the celebration as Communion services and not Eucharistic celebrations.</p> <p>(e) This booklet is in the process of translating into various languages like Chinese, BM and other local dialects of the Archdiocese of Kuching - Iban, Bidayuh Bukar Sadong, Bidayuh Biatah and Bidayuh Bau. A copy of the BM translation will be extended to Fr. G. Lasius for checking when it is ready.</p>	<p>- Fr Vincent together with Fr Lexson.</p> <p>- Fr. Vincent</p> <p>- Fr. Vincent/Fr. G. Lasius</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b><u>Next RLC Venue and date:</u></b></p> <p>(a) After the RLC last year, Fr Robert informed all that his Archbishop had agreed to host the RLC in 2011.</p> <p>(b) Members agreed that the date for next year be from 3 May 2011, Tuesday (arrival) to 6 May 2011, Friday(after Mass).</p>	<p>- Anthony to follow up on the matter.</p>
<p>A.</p> <p>A.1</p>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p><b><u>CBC’s decision on Benediction and Eulogy:</u></b></p> <p>(a) Bishop Lee reported that the CBCMSG has already approved the guidelines for the two matters recommended by RLC.</p> <p>(b) Members on the other hand, observe that the guidelines are not implemented or even known to priests in their dioceses.</p> <p>(c) Brunei, Penang and Miri reported that no eulogies are allowed during Mass or in church.</p> <p><b><u>Contention on Eulogy</u></b></p> <p>(e) Some members reported that eulogies are still allowed but after the Prayer after Communion or after the Song of Farewell. However, when these happened, often the eulogies are lengthy, the deceased are “canonised” or the person giving the eulogy was incoherent when overcome with grief.</p> <p>(f) One member contented that eulogies allow the human elements of separation to be expressed.</p> <p>(g) Some members suggested that if it is allowed, there should be an element of control by the priest with regards</p>	

	<p>to the text and length.</p> <p>(h) At the end of the deliberation, the meeting agreed to stick to its recommendation which has been approved by CBCMSB. All members suggested that the recommendation be signed by the President of CBCMSB together with the President of RLC and the signed statement be published it in the Catholic newspapers of the region.</p>	<p>- Fr. Vincent to prepare to statement to be given to Bishop Lee to present to the President of CBCMSB for signature.</p>
B.	<p><b><u>AVA Problems:</u></b></p> <p>(a) Members felt that the some projections are inappropriate for a church environment due to improper clipart and animations.</p> <p>(b) Singapore had similar problem at one time, though not completely non-existent but less prevalent now. The situation improved after the guidelines issued by its Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission.</p> <p>(c) Fr Vincent will look at the Singapore guidelines and see whether it could be adopted by Malaysian dioceses. He will draft a AVA guideline from it and circulate to all members for their opinions. The final draft will be given to CBCMSB through Bishop Lee for its endorsement.</p>	<p>- Fr Vincent and Eileen</p>
C.	<p><b><u>Singapore Seminary : Liturgy is a not a major subject</u></b></p> <p>(a) Members were aghast that liturgy which is the source and life of Church is not a major in the Singapore Seminary.</p> <p>(b) Bishop Lee who found it out, is determined to give the rector the Document on Liturgical Instruction for Seminaries (1987).</p>	<p>- Bishop Lee.</p>
D.	<p><b><u>RLC Logo:</u></b> The logo as seen in the Minutes is adopted for the RLC.</p>	
E.	<p><b><u>RLC Library:</u></b> RLC library is to be set up at the Secretariat in Kuching. Open to donation on books on liturgy.</p>	<p>~ All to support</p>
F.	<p><b><u>RLC Website:</u></b> ICEL enquired if the CBC MSB has a website and as it is also in communication with the RLC executive secretary, it is opportune time for an RLC website and thus an email address for official communications. The Secretariat will look into the matter.</p>	<p>~ Fr Vincent and Eileen</p>

10. Official meeting ended on 29 April 2010.

Grateful thanks and appreciation to Fr Leonard Lexson and his Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission members for organising the meeting and special thanks to Archbishop Murphy Pakiam for his warm welcome and support.

Recorded by: Eileen

cc: Bro Augustine Julian, secretary CBCMSB