

**CLARIFICATION ON MEDIA REPORTS RE: BISHOP CAMPBELL'S
LITURGICAL NORMS FOR THE NEOCATECHUMENAL WAY
IN THE DIOCESE OF LANCASTER**



The Bishop of Lancaster, Right Rev Michael G Campbell OSA, has issued [some modest liturgical norms](#) for his Diocese of Lancaster, **by way of reminder**, for all concerned with the Neocatechumenal Way as it operates within the Diocese of Lancaster.

The norms simply remind all that:

1. The Liturgy of the Church belongs to the whole Church.
2. Even with the fact that the Neocatechumenal Way has its own pontifically-approved statutes - these do **not** replace the principles given in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* or the role of *Universal* or *Particular* (liturgical) *Law of the Church*.
3. In no way should these norms be seen as punitive or issued for any other motive than simply reminding all of the liturgical norms of the Church and ensuring that the Liturgy of the Church in the Diocese of Lancaster is governed by the Diocesan Bishop. The Bishop is duty-bound to ensure such a reality is the case within his Diocese and has the full and necessary authority to ensure this.
4. It has been [claimed](#) that members of the Neocatechumenal Way sought a meeting to ask the Bishop in person to 'hold off' implementing the new norms until representatives of the Way had had a chance to meet with him. In fact, a meeting was requested - but there was **no mention at all** of any desired-discussion of the norms in this request **nor any mention** of a request to delay these norms until such a meeting had taken place.
5. The norms in question apply to all in the Diocese of Lancaster – not just to the Neocatechumenal Way.

End of statement.

Bishop's Office,
Lancaster

6 June 2017