



REITERATION OF ADVICE ON THE USE OF MUSIC BY DAVID HAAS

Bishops Commission for Liturgy – April 2024

The Bishops Commission for Liturgy, drawing on substantive advice from its National Liturgical Music Council, wishes to reiterate their advice previously circulated about the problematic nature of using music by the composer David Haas in liturgy or other worship settings.

Haas's compositions appear in numerous published collections of liturgical music, including Catholic Worship Book II.

In 2020 and subsequently, numerous credible allegations of sexual abuse of women by David Haas came to light, including at least two incidents in Australia. Through these allegations, it is clear that Haas used his liturgical music and his fame as a platform to perpetrate his abuse. As such, **his music should not be used any longer in Australia and advice to this effect should be circulated widely to all parishes.**

There are clear reasons to discontinue use of his music, including:

- **Copyright:** Publishers of Haas's music have terminated access to his compositions and, thus, continued use of his music is either in breach of copyright law or (if Haas has regained personal copyright to his music) providing income to an alleged sexual perpetrator.
- **Duty of Care:** Given Haas used his music as a platform for engaging in the sexual abuse of women, hearing or singing his music has the real potential to retraumatise alleged victims and to trigger others who have suffered sexual abuse.