**One Licenc(s)e – Towards a Diocesan Approach**

There is gradual acceptance of the requirement to have a music licence (*whatever way you spell it*) if **copyrighted material** is reprinted by way of text or melody line. This might be on a service sheet or projected on a screen. The licence does **not** include choral or instrumental music – so sheet music for the choir/music group is **not** covered. In that instance we need to **buy** the requisite number of original copies, mostly available online, or of hymnbooks for both choir and congregation. It is a question of justice for artists.

In recent years, our parishes have made great use of online broadcasts to reach out to those who are housebound or those who cannot travel for a family funeral. As we navigated our way through the pandemic we learnt to take great advantage of technology to stream our services. This helped to keep our people connected to their local communities (though some crossed continents to find their perfect liturgy).

If copyright content is used by way of **Zoom, Church Website, Webcam, Facebook or YouTube,** a licence is required.

You can choose the type of licence you need from the menu offered by **One License**:

The **Annual Reprint plus Podcast/Streaming License** is the most comprehensive.

The simple **Reprint License** is adequate if there is no broadcasting involved.

In Ireland, we have the opportunity to sign up to **One License** through an intermediary – **Church Services** - who offer a 5% discount **and** very usefully, an Irish based back up information desk. The more parishes that do this, through **Church Services,** the greater the possible discount on renewal next year. This would begin to look like a Diocesan Licence which many parishes have suggested. If you signed up to **One License** directly, you can change to **Church Services** from your **next** renewal date. This applies **only** to your copyright licence. You don’t need to change your webcam provider.

There are also school licences and one-time event licences and several variations for particular situations. The support desk of **Church Services** will help you navigate these.

The material above will cover most parish situations. There is a helpful basic form with information and prices available by email from one-license@churchservices.tv

**One License** does **not** cover the playing of commercial recordings: CD/MP3/Apple Music/Spotify/YouTube. This requires contact with the **Irish Music Rights Organisation** (IMRO). For example, a shopping centre which has music playing all day for staff and customers or a hairdressing salon will pay an annual fee for broadcasting in this way.

For music that is in the **Public Domain** (70 years after the death of the composer/writer) there is no liability for copyright in any medium. Explore ‘Public Domain’ on [www.onelicense.net](http://www.onelicense.net) to look up the wide range of music available for use. If you keep your music programme to these hymns plus parts of the Mass there is no liability for copyright except when the Mass parts are used in an online service.

Let us play our part in this global mission ‘to act justly’.