



**CHURCH OF IRELAND  
THE GENERAL SYNOD  
The Central Communications Board**

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*RTÉ Broadcast Services –  
An opportunity for parishes and cathedrals*

Dear Diocesan Communications Officer,

I hope that this finds you well. We are always keen to encourage more parishes and cathedrals to consider broadcasting a service with RTÉ for television and radio, and we hope that the following information will be useful for you, and for sharing with clergy, schools, choirs and other music groups, whom you would recommend for this opportunity.

Services last for 45 minutes and are generally pre-recorded; the broadcast time is 11.00am on RTÉ Radio 1 Extra and LW 252, and around the same time on RTÉ One television, depending on schedules. The main requirements for taking part are as provided below:

1. **Quality** – A high standard of preaching, reading and musicianship, as the people involved are the nation's parish church on any given Sunday. The participants are asked to come as a complete group with all necessary roles filled.
2. **Music** – Worship music forms a part of the programme to serve the liturgy, in the case of Anglican services. Subject to the allocated studio, RTÉ has a good quality electric piano, a baby grand piano and an organ available for use, but other instruments should be provided by the contributors, as should the robes of any clergy. The service is not a concert and there is no budget to pay professional choirs and musicians, but we never discourage those who want to donate their time.
3. **Representation** – RTÉ seeks to maintain a diversity of styles in the programme, from high choral to school choirs, from folk and Gospel groups to Christian rock ensembles. As an all-island public service broadcaster, it also aims to reflect all 32 counties and to deliver good representation across ages, gender, disability and socio-economic groups. Parishes from Northern Ireland are very welcome to take part.
4. **Transferability across TV and radio** – A script that will work well on TV and radio i.e. speakers will not just be talking to viewers and some illustrations will need to be expanded upon for listeners. The virtual congregation will include many who are housebound, hospitalised or in prison, as well as general viewers, so we try to acknowledge them specifically.
5. **Working with charities** – RTÉ is bound by law to ensure impartiality, so where the service involves a collaboration with a charity (e.g. during Christian Aid Week) the service must not make an explicit appeal for money but may celebrate the work of the organisation or explain the needs that it is trying to meet.

*Continued overleaf*

6. **Recording times** – On the day of the recording, participants are required to be at the main RTÉ studio in Donnybrook at the following times and ready to rehearse at the starting time:

Live broadcasts	9.00am to 12.00noon
Pre-recording sessions	1.30pm to 5.00pm

Light refreshments are provided before and after the service.

Pre-recording facilitates groups who will need to travel long distances without having to get up in the early hours of a Sunday morning. Once participation is confirmed, RTÉ will expect to have a fully rehearsed run-through of all elements with all key participants, about 10 days before the broadcast. This helps to get the 45-minute timing right and to offer a few tips on presentation, as well as answering contributors' questions.

RTÉ contributes to the costs of travel with rates on a sliding scale, depending on distance. The Central Communications Board also has a small fund to assist parishes with the costs of participating in broadcasts, and parishes can apply for assistance by contacting the Press Office at [press@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:press@ireland.anglican.org)

The RTÉ studio has an altar, lectern and sufficient seating for participants, but groups who wish to use a chalice, paten or particular lectionary or Bible version should bring their own, along with copyright-cleared sourced copies of relevant hymns and music. Generally, the maximum number of participants is approximately 30-40, depending on the configuration.

We hope that this will be helpful in highlighting some of the opportunities which broadcast services can provide. This is one of many ways to raise the profile of both our parishes and the quality of the people who serve through leading worship, week in and week out.

A broadcast service will normally be viewed, or listened to, by an attentive audience of several thousand people who very much value how churches and RTÉ facilitate public worship for many people who might not otherwise be able to take part in a service on a Sunday morning.

Should you have any queries, please get in touch with Mr Roger Childs, RTÉ's Senior Production Executive and Commissioning Editor for Religious Programmes, at [roger.childs@rte.ie](mailto:roger.childs@rte.ie) or on ++ 353 (0) 1 208 4586.

As Diocesan Communication Officers, we would be really grateful if you could pass this information on to any parishes or organisations in your dioceses whom you feel would be appropriate and willing to participate.

Yours sincerely,

*+Pat*

Bishop Pat Storey

*Chair, Central Communications Board*