

Copyright Responsibilities for Worship Booklets, Podcasts and Live Streaming

In this time of COVID-19 many parishes are creating podcasts or live streaming private Masses. Please be sure to comply with copyright laws when this is done. This ensures that composers are compensated for the use of their materials.

Whether text and/or music are copyrighted or in the public domain, that information can be found at the bottom of the hymn. Copyrighted music or text needs permission to be used. Public domain material can safely be reproduced/reprinted.

Here is an example of a hymn (O Sons and Daughters) that is in the public domain. Notice that you do not see the “Copyright” word or symbol (©). You should still include this information when using the hymn, but you may use it without a copyright license.

Text: 888 with alleluias; attr. to Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: Chant, Mode II; Airs sur les hymnes sacrez, odes et noëls, 1623.

In this example (Like a Shepherd), both the text and music are copyrighted. You need to include all information regarding the music and text, and also need permission to use either or both.

Text: Based on Isaiah 40:9ff; Ezekiel 34:11ff; Matthew 11:28ff. Text and music © 1976, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved.

Sometimes music and text are covered separately. In this example (When Love Is Found), the text is copyrighted, but the melody is not. You may find the opposite to be true for some other hymns.

*Text: Brian Wren, b.1936, © 1983, Hope Publishing Company
Tune: O WALY WALY, LM; English melody*

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<https://news.onelicense.net/2020/04/13/looking-ahead-licensing-options-for-gratis-accounts-after-april-15/>.

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