Barry M Craig was born in New Zealand, and moved aged nine with his family to Papua New Guinea where he completed his primary schooling before commencing secondary schooling in Cairns, Queensland. After ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of Cairns in 1987 he served for ten years in parish and hospital ministries before taking up studies at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (Sant' Anselmo) in Rome. He gained his License and completed the doctoral program there before returning to Cairns to work while writing his thesis. He successfully defended his thesis in Rome in 2008, publishing it in 2011 as his first book under the title "Fractio Panis: A History of the Breaking of Bread in the Roman Rite" (Studia Anselmiana 151; Analecta Liturgica 29). He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, a member of the National Liturgical Council, and of various Patristic and Liturgical societies.

**Overview**

On the eve of the Second Vatican Council the Communion rites as a whole were considered to be most in need of reform. Until the reform for fruit, the reception of Communion by the faithful was not considered a normative part of the Mass – even when they did receive. In fact, most times no one other than the presiding priest received Communion, and Communion was often given outside Mass. Whether they received during or outside Mass, a separate ritual based on that of giving Communion to the sick was used. The priest even said their preparatory prayers on their behalf. The reforms successfully restored the people to their rightful role in the Communion rites. In the process, the whole section was reordered, the ancient Breaking of Bread (the Fractio panis) that was ordered to the Communion of all participants was restored, the singing of the Lamb of God resumed to proper place and function, and the participation of all communicants was integrated into a cohesive whole. This presentation aims to help participants (clergy, music ministers, and congregants) to appreciate better the genius of the reform, both in its historical context and in how to practice it worthily and well.

**Bio**

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**Title**

Celebrating the reformed Communion Rites: from practical exclusion to formal inclusion

**Brief Description**

The reform of the Communion Rite is a gem worth celebrating, and the Rite is worth celebrating well.