

Full Name	Br James Maher msc
Bio	Br James Maher is a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC) musician and composer. James has produced two collections of songs: Heartvoice (2002) and Gospel of Love (2010). He has recently completed postgraduate research in the theology of Christian song.
Title	Facilitating liturgical music: giving voice to the heart's journey
Brief Description	A workshop for liturgy coordinators and music ministers, exploring the deeper purpose of liturgical music and pointing to some practical implications of this for liturgical music leadership.
Overview	<p>Understanding what liturgical music does, and what we are doing when we are leading or facilitating such music, can enable us to focus our attention on what matters most. Facilitating liturgical music involves more than just leading the community in song. It certainly requires specific liturgical and musical knowledge and skills, but above all it is a ministry of service that can be described as 'giving voice to the heart's journey', the Divine-human encounter at the centre of Christian life and Christian liturgy.</p> <p>This workshop will explore the function of liturgical music, and point to some of the practical implications of this for music ministry. At its best, liturgical music, like liturgy in general, mediates a human encounter with the Divine. It is widely accepted today that liturgical music is integral to liturgy, and is not merely decoration or entertainment. Liturgical music, like Christian liturgy as a whole, invites people into an experience: (1) a more conscious participation in their own religious experience, often otherwise unexpressed; or (2) an experience, not yet their own, but beckoning to them from just beyond the edge of their horizon. Music is a powerful mediator of human experience, and thus religious experience.</p> <p>It is hoped that participants in this workshop will gain a deeper understanding of the function of liturgical music. This will take most of the workshop time. In the later part of the workshop, we will consider some examples of the practical implications of this renewed understanding for facilitating liturgical music, to enable participants to begin to reflect upon their own facilitation of liturgical music in this new light.</p>
Type	Workshop
Audience	Cantors, Cantors of the Psalm; Choir Directors and Voice Trainers; Composers; Liturgy Coordinators; Liturgists; Organists and Musicians; Leaders of music ministry
Breakout	D