



Using a microphone and hearing loop

For people who are hard of hearing and use a hearing aid, the use of a well maintained hearing loop is important to make sure they are fully included whether it be at Mass or at parish meetings. A hearing loop is also referred to as an induction loop or a T-loop.

A hearing loop transfers sound be it voices or music directly into a hearing aid without background noise. This is achieved by the loop creating a magnetic field which is then picked up by the hearing aid.

- Make sure you always use a microphone and hearing loop. Having a loud voice does not compensate for not using a microphone and hearing loop.**
- When using a fixed microphone try not to move you head too much. Moving you head from side to side means that your voice is not constant and can mean those relying on the amplification or hearing loop get only half of what you are saying.**
- If you use a radio microphone make sure you turn it off when you are not the person speaking. Whispered words might not get picked up on the microphone amplification but it will get picked up on the hearing loop and be clearly audible to those using the hearing loop.**
- For group meetings and sessions it is possible to use portable hearing loops. If you are using a portable loop at a meeting, make sure everyone who contributes uses the**

microphone when making their point or asking questions. If this does not happen someone relying on the hearing loop will not be able to follow the meeting.

- For one to one meetings is it possible to use a face to face hearing loop. These work for a range of approximately one metre.**
- If you are using a hearing loop to facilitate the sacrament of reconciliation make sure that other people who use hearing aids and not in the vicinity. It is possible for other hearing aid users to effectively hear through walls if the strength of the loop means that sounds spills into other areas.**
- Check the hearing loop in your parish regularly. Most hearing loops when you purchase them come with a testing kit. It is a good idea however to ask some people who use hearing aids to stand at various points in the room that you are planning on using or in the church to check if the loop is working.**