

# LITURGY NEWSLETTER

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*A Quarterly Newsletter prepared by the Liturgy Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales*

## ICEL Appointments

Bishop Arthur Roche, chairman of the Liturgy Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, recently appointed coadjutor to Bishop David Konstant in Leeds diocese has also been elected chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

He replaces Bishop Maurice Taylor of Galloway (Scotland) who is retiring.

Bishop Roche, Coadjutor Bishop of Leeds, said: "I am aware of the considerable and valuable work which ICEL has undertaken on behalf of the English-speaking bishops' conference since 1963.

I am honoured to have been elected by the Episcopal board as its new chairman. I am confident that with the appointment of Fr Bruce Harbert as its executive secretary, and in a spirit of full corporation, ICEL will move forward confidently to faithfully translate liturgical texts which are worthy of our language and memorable for their nobility."

Bruce Harbert has been appointed as Executive Secretary to ICEL. He has said: "I am delighted to have been asked by the Episcopal Board of ICEL to serve them as their Executive Secretary. It will be a privilege to work with the international team of scholars who contribute to ICEL's work, and to continue the task of handing on the Roman Rite to the English-speaking world in a form that is faithful to its Latin original and meets the needs of Christians in the twenty-first century. It will be important to maintain contact with the Roman Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and to observe the principles set forth in *Liturgiam Authenticam*."

## Popular Piety

An English text of *The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* will be published by CTS in October (at a likely price of £10.00). The Directory contains two principal sections. Part One describes the historical relationship between Popular Piety and the Liturgy, and a theological overview of its authentic role in the life of the Church. Part Two offers a most useful chapter on the Liturgical Year and Popular Piety, in addition to chapters on Marian devotion, veneration of the saints, prayer for the dead, and shrines and pilgrimages.

## MA in Liturgy

The Department's MA course in Liturgy gets underway in September. The core module—considering Mystagogy, Ritual and Initiation—has proved of great interest to catechists and liturgists alike. Of the first students applying, 1 was from Rome, 1 from England, 1 from Wales and 1 from Scotland. The group looks like it will also be a healthy mix of men and women, lay and ordained, catechists, liturgists and those with keen general interest. Further details of the course are available from Fr Allen Morris at the Liturgy Office.

## Meeting of Committees

The next meeting of the Department and its Committees takes place on 1st October at London Colney. The afternoon will be dedicated to consideration of issues related to change in the Church - for example the reduced availability of priests, 'redundant' parish churches, the role of liturgy in communities where Mass is celebrated less frequently. Input will be provided and the meeting facilitated by Fr Peter McGrail.

## Preparation for Roman Missal

A meeting of National Liturgy Secretaries of England & Wales, Ireland and Scotland was held in London during June to develop a common policy for the preparation and publication of the Roman Missal and its General Instruction in these islands.

## Department Handbook

The first Handbook for the Department of Christian Life and Worship, giving details of the Departments work, its Committees and sub-committees has been prepared. A summary version is available on the Department website.

*A liturgical act is an event of grace whose effect exceeds the will or expertise of the agents who are called to be humble instruments in the Lord's hands. (But) it is they who have the task of making it possible to see what God is for us, what he does for us, and of making the faithful today realize that they are entering into the history of creation sanctified by the Redeemer, in the mystery of universal salvation.*

John Paul II, March 1997

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**A**lmighty God and Father, by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong; by the sacrament of the resurrection you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly upon your servant Edward, now freed from the bonds of mortality, and count him among your saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Order of Christian Funerals

## Coming Events

### Vision of Hope

*an exhibition of contemporary Christian art being held at the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals of Liverpool from 10 May–15 June. Organised by Christian Arts and Society of Catholic Artists. Further details from John Armstrong (01273 881304, and [armat@dircon.co.uk](mailto:armat@dircon.co.uk)). A website will be available from September: [visionofhope.co.uk](http://visionofhope.co.uk)*

### Barnett Newman

*Tate Modern: 19 September 2002 - 5 January 2003 A full scale retrospective of the paintings, sculpture and works on paper of Barnett Newman one of the leaders of the group of American artists who became known as the Abstract Expressionists. Among the fifty paintings included there will be a unique opportunity to see Newman's celebrated series The Stations of the Cross 1958-66.*

## Further Information

Vatican Website  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

CTS  
[www.cts-online.org.uk](http://www.cts-online.org.uk)  
020 7640 0042

The Music Makers  
[www.themusicmakers.org](http://www.themusicmakers.org)  
020 7207 5501

## At rest in the Lord

Fr Edward Yarnold SJ, renowned Ecumenist, Liturgical scholar and Theologian died on 30 July. Details of the many tributes are given on the website.

## Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

The Music Makers and St John's Seminary, Womersley have produced a CD 'Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: A Guide for priests singing the Mass. This CD contains recordings of the chants given in the Missal for the use of clergy (e.g. chant tones for the Greeting, Collect, Gospel, Preface, Eucharistic Prayers etc). Not exactly what you'd want in your Walkman for everyday use, but a very helpful resource for clergy

## Finding nourishment in the Scriptures

In his Apostolic Letter for the New Millennium, Pope John Paul writes: "To nourish ourselves with the word in order to be 'servants of the word' in the work of evangelisation: this is surely a priority for the Church at the dawn of the new millennium" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte* 40). All ministers, all disciples, need the sustenance which the Scriptures provide. In order to be nourished by the Scriptures we need to remember constantly that they are the word of God in human language. The word is from God. The word takes on the form of human language.

The books of Scripture "have God as their author" (*Dei Verbum* 11). The word of God in Scripture rightly receives our reverence and devotion. We read, we listen, but always in a spirit of prayer, open to the assistance of the same Spirit who inspired the writing (*Dei Verbum* 12). We ask for the guidance of the Lord, who opened the minds of his disciples (Luke 24:45). The quiet listening of the mother of Jesus "pondering these things in her heart" may be our model (Luke 2:19). The eager mind of Mary, sister of Martha, teaches us to have time for that quiet listening (Luke 10:39). Giving time to prepare the readings of the Liturgy of the Word may be how

who need a bit of encouragement to sing the liturgy.

## Pocket Gospels

The Catholic Truth Society has recently published single volume editions of each of the Gospels. Attractively produced and costing only £1.00 they use the Jerusalem Bible translation authorised for use in the Lectionary. They are likely to be of particular use to groups using Lectionary Based Catechesis, and in parishes which encourage parishioners to use of the Sunday Gospel as part of their daily prayer in preparation for the Liturgy, and as a way of continuing to draw nourishment from it in the days following.

we have started to treasure the word. It may be that the Liturgy of the Hours, prayed with attentiveness and time, may be our encouragement to delve further into the Scriptures.

The Scriptures are also the work of "true human authors" (*Dei Verbum* 11). To fail to acknowledge this dimension is to fail to acknowledge the dynamic of the incarnation. "For the words of God, expressed in human languages, became like human speech, just as once the Word of the eternal Father, taking on the flesh of human weakness, became like human beings." (*Dei Verbum* 13) To fail to acknowledge the humanity of Scripture is to fall into the trap of fundamentalism, to disregard the gift of reason, to fail to seek true understanding of God's word.

The challenge is to respect appropriately both the divine word and the human forms in which it comes to us. It is the challenge of the incarnation.

Fr Adrian Gruffy is a member of the Department of Catholic Education and Formation with special responsibility for biblical formation. He is author of *Alive and Active. The Old Testament Beyond 2000* (Dublin, Columba, 1999) and *Trustworthy and True. The Gospels Beyond 2000* (Dublin, Columba, 2001). He is a priest of the Brentwood Diocese and lectures at St John's Seminary, Womersley.

Tried and Tested

## A ministry of first impressions

Estate Agents say that prospective buyers have decided whether to buy a house within 11 seconds of entering it. There is not much time for first impressions.

Sometimes it is useful to look at things from a different perspective: to look at our churches and ask what message they give—what do we notice in 11 seconds? Is the exterior notice board clear, uncluttered and up to date? Are access routes visible? Is the entrance door welcoming; the porch light. What do the notice boards tell us about the parish community? Are the papers and leaflets organized?

Tasks like these require people to do them and Ushers or Ministers of welcome can often take responsibility for these important details.

Ushers, however, are primarily concerned with people. Theirs is a ministry of sensitivity, assistance and unobtrusiveness.

- On Sundays welcoming the community and the visitor—a sign of Christ's presence to others but also called to recognise Christ's presence in others.
- Organised and aware of what is going on—a point of information and help.
- Handing people what they need to participate in a liturgy and through the celebration having an eye to what is going on.

As the Church reflects on its evangelising mission perhaps one place to start locally is to review our first impressions — people and buildings.

Beg, borrow... or buy

## Resources for formation of Ministers

**Eucharist as Word:** This is an excellent and very accessible series of 7 short articles, now in book form, written by *Michel de Verteuil*, a Spiritan priest who has been teaching *lectio divina* in various countries for over 20 years. He uses the two principles basic to the teaching on the Eucharist in the early centuries of the

## Liturgy for Life

**E**vangelisation in England and Wales is a report recently made to the Bishops' Conference. It is based on a wide survey of Catholics, and makes fascinating reading.

The report's sections on the theology, spirituality and context of evangelisation are substantial and challenging and would prove very helpful background reading for any Deanery or Parish reflection on these matters.

It is very clear from the report that we Catholics think liturgy is important and valuable. The percentage points are consistently high. When asked: "What builds Christian fellowship in our parish?" the answer given is Mass — 92%. This is not surprising. For the regularly practicing, Sunday Mass is clearly the symbol of our living in some sort of community with each other and for the Lord. For those less regular in their practicing, the liturgies associated with 'hatching, matching and dispatching', are likely to be what continue to give a vivid experience of connection with the Church.

But how is the Church's liturgy forming us? What is it teaching us about the Church, Christian values and Christian living?

The writers of the report affirm the teaching that "Evangelisation is the origin, purpose and destiny of the Church." (p4). They continue: "Evangelisation involves the enactment of the Gospel as well as (or indeed as part of) its proclamation. Evangelisation is something which must happen to the Church to enable

the Church to evangelise. It is in hearing, accepting and living the Gospel that the Church can share it. ... To those suffering from injustice and oppression evangelisation must involve the material transformation of society and release from those things which dehumanise and victimise them; for the sinner and the wounded evangelisation must involve news of forgiveness and healing; for the Church evangelisation must involve constant renewal in the Gospel. The integral liberation that comes in Christ touches all dimensions of humanity: evangelisation must therefore address all the dimensions of humanity." (p5)

Ok? So do the results of the survey suggest that the liturgy is helping people engage with this basic feature of Catholic Christian life?

I'm not sure it does. Asked, "Where is the gospel most proclaimed and/or enacted in our parishes" — 93% say at Mass, and 50% in the lives and work of parish staff, clergy and lay. Only 33% think it is most proclaimed in the lives and work of lay Christians or in the community or the wider world.

It seems we Catholics see the liturgy as the principal source for our Christian faith and Christian identity, and the principal place for living out our Christian lives.

Asked what the strengths of their parish are people again score liturgy (54%) and social things high — warmth of welcome (59%), care for each other (57%) but community involvement comes low (16%); as do

commitment to justice and peace (14%), teaching and learning (14%). Our liturgy may in many respects be being celebrated well, but the proper points of connection seem not to be being made, if it is not serving as source and summit for the evangelised missioned Christian life.

What does the survey reveal about training for ministry in and as Church? 46% have received ministerial formation but it all seems to have been for liturgical ministry!

If this is really so then those of us responsible for the training of ministers to consider what formation is being offered them. Is it helping them to become ministers of the Gospel or only performers of liturgical tasks? Being a reader is not merely about knowing the right page in the lectionary, speaking clearly and returning quietly to one's seat but reflecting, proclaiming and living the Word of God. How does the training we provide promote this formation?

And how might we help our liturgical ministers come to a deeper grasping not only of their own Christian vocation, but also that of those they are called to serve. As they minister our liturgical ministers need to become part of the message. Christ is Lord and it was as servant that he revealed the fullness of the Gospel. The message is the fullness of life, offered to all. The medium of all Christian ministry is that same Christ proclaimed and enacted in the person, life and work of the minister/disciple.

*Resources continued*

Church, and given further depth of insight at the Second Vatican Council — firstly, that the Eucharist is a source of grace, and is the best setting for popular theological formation for Christian living, and secondly that we will be open to both the grace and the catechesis of the Sacrament if we have meditated on the scriptures. A rewarding read for both Ministers of the Word and Ministers of

the Eucharist.

**Sound the Trumpet: Reflections on the Paschal Mystery** The author's experience of the death of her husband has born fruit in this book, reflections on the dying and rising of Jesus. She draws us into Jesus' journey towards his own death, and the wonders of his rising, encouraging us to become more deeply aware of this mystery at work in our very own lives. From Temptations,

to Transfiguration, Prayer and Mercy, Fasting and the Cost of Discipleship, Anguish to Victory, we follow, until finally we stand at the empty tomb and ponder the words of the angel "He is not here! He is risen!" *Michele Gallagher* is a Professor of English, with post-doctoral qualifications in both Liturgy and Scripture. She writes well, and what she offers springs from her own life of prayer. It has a mystical quality

*A step toward full unity between Catholics and Orthodox was taken when on June 29th, for the first time in a millennium, a patriarch of Constantinople celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine basilica of Sant' Apollinare in Classe in Ravenna. The mosaics embellishing the walls of the sixth-century structure are considered some of the greatest expressions of Byzantine art.*

*In his homily, Patriarch Bartholomew I expressed his hope that the event would be a harbinger of better relations between Catholics and Orthodox.*

*He didn't hide the difficulties felt in the theological dialogue, but he urged confidence in God, who desires unity among all his children.*

*"Affirming the truth, we also dialogue in love, we pray and we hope for the magnificent day, blessed by God, in which spiritual communion between the Churches will be restored," said the Orthodox leader.*

*Ravenna has been a stopover for a cruiser that has been sailing the Adriatic Sea as part of an environmental-protection initiative of the patriarch. Aboard are religious leaders, who are reflecting on how to protect the environment, particularly the Adriatic.*

Zenit.org June 9, 2002

### Further Information

**Evangelisation Report**  
www.cms.org.uk/research/  
published by  
Catholic Communications Centre  
020 7901 4800

**Eucharist as Word**  
Veritas, ISBN 1 85390 519 4 £6.99  
www.veritas.ie

**Sound the Trumpet**  
Alba House, New York:  
ISBN 0-8189-0665-0 £5.95  
www.albahouse.org

**Mark for Everyone**  
SPCK ISBN 0-281-05300-6 £9.99  
www.spck.org.uk

**The Only Necessary Thing**  
DLT, ISBN 0-232-52355-X £10.95

# Prayers of Blessing for Liturgical and Pastoral Ministers

## Further Information

**Book of Blessing**  
extracts reproduced with kind permission of Secretariat for the Liturgy, USCC published by Liturgical Press www.litpress.org Distribution in UK – Columba Books 00 353 1 294 2556 www.columba.ie

*Participatory liturgy isn't fostered when an assembly is simply told, "Beginning next week, stand – as the rubrics have taught for 30 years – during the communion procession." Nor does catechesis in the homily and bulletin about this important change over a period of weeks make for good liturgy. Beyond mere information, time is needed to learn to do something well, to get the experience into the body, the individual, and the church, to be at home with it, to do it by heart. When we seek participation and not obedience, time is needed not only in the preparation but in the good implementation of what is to be done. That is why 'ears' may not be so far-fetched in thinking about this project.*

Gabe Huck.

Sunday Mass: Five Years from Now. LTP, 2001.

## Liturgy Newsletter

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter.html

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The edition of the *Book of Blessings* produced for use in the Dioceses of the United States (and authorised by our own Bishops' Conference for interim use in England and Wales) contains rites for the blessing of liturgical and pastoral ministers.

Each set of rites exists in two forms, one to be used during Mass, the other to be used within a celebration of the Word of God.

1. The **Order of Blessing of Readers within Mass** is given below.

Prayers for **Commissioning Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion within Mass** and **Blessing of Altar Servers, Sacristans, Musicians, Ushers**, are available from the Department website. ([www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter.html](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter.html))

## Order for the Blessing of Readers

### Introduction

1827 The word of God, as proclaimed in the sacred Scripture, lies at the heart of our Christian life and is integral to all our liturgical celebrations.

1828 This order is not intended for the institution of readers by the bishop, who uses the rite contained in the *Roman Pontifical*. Rather, this blessing is for parish readers who have the responsibility of proclaiming the Scriptures at Mass and other liturgical services. Care should be taken to see that readers are properly prepared for the exercise of their ministry before receiving this blessing. The functions of the reader are given in no. 66 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*.

1829 If desired, each new reader may be presented with a lectionary or bible after the prayer of blessing.

1830 This blessing is given by the pastor, who may also delegate it to another priest or a deacon.

## Order of Blessing within Mass

1831 *After the gospel reading, the celebrant in the homily, based on the sacred text and pertinent to the particular place and the people involved, explains the meaning of the celebration.*

## General Intercessions

1832 *The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form provided here. The celebrant concludes the intercessions with the prayer of blessing.*

### Resources continued

about it, simple, yet profound. Savour it slowly – you will find it nourishing!

**Mark for Everyone** Tom Wright wins again! He successfully combines scholarship with an ability to communicate warmly with non-specialist readers. This book is one of a major new series of guides to the books of the New Testament. Each short passage is followed by a highly readable discussion, making relevant connections with life today. No knowledge of technical jargon required. Highly recommended for personal or group use.

*From the following intentions those best for the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.*

The celebrant says:

The word of God calls us out of darkness into the light of faith. With the confidence of God's children let us ask the Lord to hear our prayers and to bless these readers.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Or

R. Lord, graciously hear us.

*Assisting minister*

For the Church, that we may continue to respond to the word of God which is proclaimed in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

For all who listen as the Scriptures are proclaimed, that God's word may find in them a fruitful field, we pray to the Lord.

For those who have not heard the message of Christ, that we may be willing to bring them the good news of salvation, we pray to the Lord.

For our readers, that with deep faith and confident voice they may announce God's saving word, we pray to the Lord.

## Prayer of Blessing

1833 *With hands extended over the new readers the celebrant says immediately:*

Everlasting God,  
when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth,  
your Son proclaimed  
the good news of salvation  
for which he would give up his life.

Bless these readers.

As they proclaim your words of life,  
strengthen their faith  
that they may read with conviction  
and boldness,  
and put into practice what they read.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life** Compiled and edited by *Wendy Wilson Greer*, this anthology brings together Henri Nouwen's thoughts on prayer under headings like Solitude, Listening, Discipline, and Forgiveness. It contains some previously unpublished prayers, and as one would expect, is encouragement from one who writes from the heart of his own experience of struggle and longing to communicate with God. Sure to inspire.

Caroline Dollard, Ampleforth Abbey/ Middlesbrough Diocese Bishop's Council for Liturgy, & Formation Committee