

LITURGY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 No. 1

November 2004

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

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

The translation and adaptation of the revised *General Instruction* for the use of the Church in England and Wales was approved by Cardinal Arinze in August. It will be published by CTS, on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in the Season of Easter 2005.

The 3rd edition of the *Roman Missal*, was published in Latin in 2002. The *General Instruction* forms an integral part of the ritual book, and a translation of it would not normally be published in advance of the whole book. However in this case the Bishops of England and Wales sought the permission of the Holy See to publish a version of the General Instruction for use in their dioceses, because of the significance of the celebration of the Mass in the life of the Catholic community, and because the revised *General Instruction* has had force of law from the time of the publication of the Latin edition.

ICEL continues to prepare a translation of the whole Missal for the consideration of the Bishops of the English-speaking world. Its Episcopal Board met during the summer to consider responses to the draft translation it had issued in February 2004. ICEL has not indicated to the Department when the next draft translations will be submitted for the attention of the Bishops of England and Wales.

To be published at the same time as the translation of the revised *General Instruction* will be *Celebrating the Mass*. This is a pastoral guide to the celebration of Mass issued by the Bishops of England and Wales themselves. It builds on work done some years ago, but now fully revised and expanded to take account not only of the publication of the 3rd edition of the Missal, but also *Redemptionis Sacramentum* and other recent documents from the Holy See. *Celebrating the Mass* will be a useful pastoral resource not only for clergy but for all ministers with particular responsibility for the preparation and celebration of the Mass.

The publication of the English translation of the *General Instruction* and of *Celebrating the Mass* will greatly facilitate the Church in England and Wales in its consideration of how it celebrates the Mass, a review of practice that the Holy Father has recently likened to 'a sort of examination of conscience concerning the reception given to the Second Vatican Council.' (*Spiritus et Sponsa* 6). His words (quoted in the side-bar on this page) make it clear that the purpose of such reflection is to be a deepening of the renewal called for by the Council, a deeper appreciation of the riches and the potential of the Church's liturgy.

It is perhaps fortuitous that these documents will be published during the Year of the Eucharist.

A further resource, *With Hearts and Minds*, has been prepared by the Liturgy Office to help parish groups reflect on how they understand and participate in the Liturgy. Above all this resource seeks to promote the formation of a deeper liturgical spirituality. *With Hearts and Minds* is also expected to be published in the Easter Season. Further information may be obtained from the Liturgy Office.

Bishops and the Eucharist

Pope John Paul met in September with 130 recently-appointed bishops gathered in Rome to participate in a meeting organized for them by the Congregations for Bishops and for the Oriental Churches.

The Holy Father reminded them of the 'two traditions of the universal Church, East and West,' that 'with consecration, a bishop turns into teacher, priest and guide of the Chris-

tian community. Therefore, Christ, the divine Master, present in the Word of Scripture as well as in the sacrament of the Eucharist, must always be at the centre of his ministry.'

He spoke of his desire that the Year of the Eucharist 'will be a providential occasion to better explore the central importance of the sacrament of the Eucharist in the life and activity of every particular Church. The bonds of fraternal charity are strengthened around the altar and the awareness is enlivened in all

Forty years (since the publication of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*), it is appropriate to review the ground covered.

I have already suggested on former occasions a sort of examination of conscience concerning the reception given to the Second Vatican Council. Such an examination must also concern the liturgical and sacramental life. "Is the Liturgy lived as the "origin and summit" of ecclesial life, in accordance with the teaching of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*?" Has the rediscovery of the value of the Word of God brought about by liturgical reform met with a positive confirmation in our celebrations? To what extent does the Liturgy affect the practice of the faithful and does it mark the rhythm of the individual communities? Is it seen as a path of holiness, an inner force of apostolic dynamism and of the Church's missionary outreach?

Pope John Paul II
Spiritus et Sponsa, 6

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Coming Events

Society of St Gregory Annual Crichton Lecture

To be given at Pershore, Worcestershire on Saturday 27th November 2004 by Dr Peter McGrail, priest of Liverpool Archdiocese and lecturer at Hope University. www.ssg.org.uk

Churches Funeral Group

'The Shadow of Death: Rethinking Burial and Cremation A Day Conference'. Monday 7 March 2005, 11.30-5pm. University of Notre Dame, 1 Suffolk Street, London. Details available from Liturgy Office.

Society of St Gregory Pilgrimage to Rome

The pilgrimage is taking place during Easter Week 2005, 28th March - 1st April. It will be led by Fr Peter Jones and Fr Allen Morris. Full details available from SSG website and from Tangney Tours www.ssg.org.uk

Joint Liturgical Group Conference

'Dwellers all in Time and Space 13-15 September 2005 at Ushaw

National Network of Pastoral Musicians

July 27-30 2006
Themes to include 'Wisdom from the East...'

Society of Liturgical Studies 22-24 August 2006

Book reviews

Brief reviews of recent liturgical publications have previously been carried in *Liturgy Newsletter*. Because of pressure of space it has been decided that all further reviews, and details of books received, will be put directly on the Liturgy Office website. This has the advantage of allowing more substantial reviews of a broader selection of materials.

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter

Books recently reviewed:

Resources for times of remembrance: Beyond our Tears
Prepared by the Joint Liturgical Group and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

The Bugnini-Liturgy and the Reform of the Reform. László Dobszay

Celebrating the Christian Year: Prayers & Resources for Sundays, Holy Days & Festivals Years A, B & C Volume 1: Ordinary Time
Compiled by Alan Griffiths.

Healed, Restored, Forgiven: liturgies, prayers and readings for the ministry of healing. John Gunstone.

Living the Lectionary - links to life and literature. Year C. Geoff Wood.

Preparing Parish Liturgies: A guide to resources. Rita Thiron.

Voices from the Council. edited by Michael R. Prendergast and M.D. Ridge.

believers of belonging to the one People of God, whom the bishops guide.'

John Paul emphasized to the bishops their duty to take special care of the celebration of the Sacraments and worship in general. 'Defend the hope of the faithful to have a dignified cel-

ebration in which nothing is left to improvisation or chance.'

Canadian Liturgical Resources

The publications arm of the Canadian bishops' conference has launched an online service for its publications about topics

such as liturgy, child and adult faith education, and sacramental preparation.

About 500 titles are available in English and French by going to www.cccbpublications.net. Payment can be made on line by credit card, a boon for would-be UK users of the site.

Resources for the Year of the Eucharist

The Liturgy Office has produced a series of resources to promote times of liturgical prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament. These focus on different dimensions of the Eucharistic Mystery, connecting them with different intentions of the *Cycle of Prayer for England and Wales*.

The Harvest of Faith
(especially for October – November)

Openness to the Word of God Migrants & Refugees
(especially for December – January)

The Communion of the Church
(especially for January – February)

The Growth of the Church
(especially for March – April)

Sharing in the life of the Lord
(especially for May – June)

Alive in Christ
(especially for July – August)

Thanksgiving
(especially for September – October)

They are accompanied by simple guidance notes for the celebration of the *Rite of Exposition*, and the *Rite of Exposition and Benediction* and a guide to music and the rite.

These first (free) resources are all available to be downloaded from the Liturgy Office website (www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources). They may be freely reproduced, so long as they are not made available for sale and the copyright details are not altered.

The reform of the Liturgy mandated by Vatican Council II was implemented to assist men and women to a deeper participation in the Liturgy, and especially the Liturgy of the Mass. As Pope John Paul has recently noted, the reform has born great fruit.¹

At the same time there is need for still greater renewal. To assist this renewal Pope John Paul has proclaimed a Year of the Eucharist to run from October 2004 to October 2005. It concludes with a Synod of Bishops to reflect on the topic of 'The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church'.

Those responsible for the Synod have explained that it has been called to address a certain 'Eucharistic need', namely to promote a 'Eucharistic practice which calls for a renewed attitude of love that is expressed in acts of faith in the One who is present for those containing to search for him in our world: "Master, where do you live?"'²

Pope John Paul recently reminded the Church that she lives from the Eucharist, that the Sacrament is nourishment for her life and mission: 'a renewed impetus in Christian living passes through the Eucharist.'³

Preaching on the occasion of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ in 2004 the Holy Father quoted words from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26).

The Pope ended by saying: 'With these words St. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that the "Lord's supper" is not only a convivial gathering, but also – and above all – the memorial of the redeeming sacrifice of Christ. Whoever takes part – the Apostle explains – unites himself to the mystery of the death of the Lord, in fact, becomes his "herald."'

'There is, therefore, a very close relation between "celebrating the Eucharist" and proclaiming Christ. To enter into communion with him in the Pasch memorial means, at the same time, to become missionaries of the event that the ritual realizes. In a certain sense, it means to render it contemporary at all times, until the Lord returns.'⁴

The Eucharist is Mystery of Christ, but it also reveals the Mystery of the Church and of the lives of her members. There is much for us to contemplate in this Mystery. We are invited to engage with this Mystery each time we celebrate the Mass. One further, and particularly valuable, way of doing this is through times of prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

.+ *Mark Jabalé* OSB
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Chairman of the Department

1 *Vicesimus Quintus Annus* 12, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 10, *Spiritus et Sponsa* 2, 16

2 *Lineamenta* for Synod of Bishops XI Ordinary General Assembly, Preface.

3 *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 60.

4 John Paul II, homily for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, 10th June 2004

Celebrating the Rite of Penance

In his Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (2001), Pope John Paul wrote: "I am asking for renewed pastoral courage in ensuring that the day-to-day teaching of Christian communities persuasively and effectively presents the practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

This letter was followed by the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter *Misericordia Dei* (2002) in which the Holy Father urged the Church to undertake a vigorous revitalization of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Liturgy Office has produced a variety of resources to assist the Church in England and Wales respond to the encouragement offered by Pope John Paul. They are all available to be downloaded from the website (www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources) without charge. They may be freely reproduced, so long as they are not made available for sale and the copyright details are not altered.

The present resources are especially focused on the season of Advent. Additional resources will be made available for Lent.

Your comments on the resources are welcomed as are any thoughts as to additional resources which may be of assistance.

These materials accompany the publication of Norms prepared in accordance with the Holy Father's request in *Misericordia Dei* concerning the celebration of the 3rd Form of the Rite. These Norms have been approved by the Bishops of England and Wales and have received the *recognitio* of the Holy See.

Fr Allen Morris
Secretary to Liturgy Office

Resources

General Parish Resources

Reviewing Parish Ministry

A brief paper with questions focusing on how the *Rite of Penance* is understood and celebrated in a parish.

Celebrating Reconciliation Together

An introduction to the second form of the *Rite of Penance* and guide for local collaboration to enable its worthy celebration.

Resources for Parish Liturgy Groups

Preparing Form 2

Thinking about Reconciliation

A broader perspective on reconciliation in the liturgical life of the Church. The text includes extensive quotations from the *Rite of Penance* and other Church documents, and series of questions to encourage personal engagement with the material.

Celebrating the Mercy of God - the Place of Reconciliation

extract from *Consecrated for Worship* - a directory on Church Buildings (in preparation)

Season of Advent

Form 1

Guide for Adults preparing for the Sacrament

Guide for Children preparing for the Sacrament

These cards offer a guide to the first Form of the Rite, and include the basic texts and simple commentary.

Scripture cards

Cards to assist penitents in using Scripture as part of their preparation for celebration of the Sacrament.

Form 2

Resources for Advent celebration

— Guidance and resources, including a sample service for parish use.

Non - Sacramental Celebrations

Resources for family celebration

A simple pattern for a non-sacramental family celebration of reconciliation.

Season of Lent

Material available in January

Documentation

Rite of Penance — Introduction

A4 pages

A5 booklet for copying

Misericordia Dei

on Certain Aspects of the Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

His Holiness John Paul II - Apostolic Letter

Norms related to Canon 961, §2

Seek God's face; your face, Lord, do I seek! Do not hide your face from me (Psalm 26: 8-9).

It is God's face that is the object of prayer's spiritual quest...

In the language of the Psalms, "to seek the face of the Lord" is often synonymous with entering into the temple to celebrate and experience communion with the God of Zion. But the expression also includes the mystical need of divine intimacy through prayer. In the liturgy, therefore, and in personal prayer, we are given the grace of intuiting that face that we will never be able to see directly during our earthly life (see Exodus 33:20).

But Christ has revealed to us, in an accessible way, the divine face and has promised that in the final encounter of eternity - as St. John reminds us - "we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2). And St. Paul adds: "Then we will see face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Commenting on this Psalm, Origen, the great Christian writer of the third century, noted: "If a man seeks the face of the Lord, he will see the glory of the Lord in an unveiled way and, having become equal to the angles, will always see the face of the Father who is in heaven" (PG 12, 1281).

And St. Augustine, in his commentary on the Psalms, continues the Psalmist's prayer thus: "I have not sought from you some prize that is outside of you, but your face. 'Your face, Lord, will I seek.' With perseverance I will insist on this search; I will not seek, in fact, something of little worth, but your face, O Lord, to love you freely, given that I do not find anything more precious. ... 'Do not go away angry from your servant,' so that in seeking you, I come across something else. What can be a greater sorrow than this for the one who loves and seeks the truth of your face?" ("Commentaries on the Psalms," 26,1,8-9)

Pope John Paul II,
28 April 2004

Pass on the Message...

The full text of the Holy Father's Message, together with discussion questions for use by individuals or groups can be downloaded from the Liturgy Office website

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter

Magazine subscriptions

In 2003 the Liturgy Office began to offer readers in the United Kingdom the opportunity to subscribe through the Office to overseas English language liturgical publications. This facility helps subscribers avoid the difficulties and expense of paying the subscriptions in foreign currency.

Orders for subscriptions for 2005 are being taken now. The closing date for 2005 subscriptions is December 6th.

Details of periodicals and how to order are given on the Liturgy Office website.

Liturgy Newsletter

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter

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World Youth Day 2005

Below is an edited text of the Holy Father's Message calling the Youth of the World to the next World Youth Day to be held in Cologne, Germany, August 16-21, 2005

My dear young people!

1. ... 'We have come to worship him' (Mt 2:2): this is the theme of the next World Youth Day. It is a theme that enables young people from every continent to follow in spirit the path taken by the Magi whose relics... are venerated in this very city, and to meet, as they did, the Messiah of all nations.

It is true to say that the light of Christ had already opened the minds and the hearts of the Magi. 'They went their way' (Mt 2:9... setting out boldly along unknown paths on a long, and by no means easy, journey. They did not hesitate to leave everything behind in order to follow the star that they had seen in the East (cf. Mt 2:2). Imitating the Magi, you young people are also making preparations to set out on a 'journey' from every region of the world to go to Cologne. It is important... not only to concern yourselves with the practical arrangements for World Youth Day, but first of all you must carefully prepare yourselves spiritually, in an atmosphere of faith and listening to the Word of God.

2. 'And the star... went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was' (Mt 2:9). The Magi reached Bethlehem because they allowed themselves to be guided by the star... It is important, my dear friends, to learn to observe the signs with which God is calling and guiding us. When we are conscious of being led by Him, our heart experiences authentic and deep joy as well as a powerful desire to meet Him and a persevering strength to follow Him obediently.

'And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother' (Mt 2:11). There is nothing extraordinary about this at first sight. Yet that Child was different from any other: He is the only Son of God, yet He emptied Himself of His glory (cf. Phil 2:7) and came to earth to die on the Cross. He came down among us and became poor in order to reveal to us His divine glory... Who could have invented a greater sign of love? ...In His poverty—as Saint Paul reminds us—'though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich' (2 Cor 8:9), and came to offer salvation to sinners. How can we give thanks to God for such... goodness?

3. The Magi found Jesus at 'Beth-lehem' which means 'house of bread'. In the humble stable in Bethlehem on some straw lay the 'grain of wheat' who, by dying, would bring forth 'much fruit' (cf. Jn 12:24). When speaking of Himself and His saving mission... Jesus would later use the image of bread. He would say 'I am the bread of life', 'I am the bread which came down from heaven', 'the bread that I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh'. (Jn 6: 35.41.51).

Faithfully pursuing the path of our Redeemer from the poverty of the Crib to His abandonment on the Cross we can better understand the mystery of His love which redeems humanity. The Child, laid by Mary in the manger, is the Man-God we

shall see nailed to the Cross. The same Redeemer is present in the sacrament of the Eucharist. In the stable at Bethlehem He allowed himself to be worshipped under the humble outward appearances of a newborn baby, by Mary, by Joseph and by the shepherds; in the consecrated Host we adore Him sacramentally present in his body, blood, soul and godhead, and He offers himself to us as the food of eternal life. The Mass then becomes a truly loving encounter with the One who gave himself wholly for us. Do not hesitate, my dear young friends, to respond to Him when He invites you 'to the wedding feast of the Lamb' (cf. Rev 19:9). Listen to him, prepare yourselves properly and draw close to the Sacrament of the Altar, particularly in this Year of the Eucharist...

4. ... 'Opening their treasures they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh' (Mt 2:11). The gifts (of gold, frankincense and myrrh) that the Magi offered the Messiah symbolized true worship. My dear young people, you too offer to the Lord the gold of your lives, namely, your freedom to follow Him out of love, responding faithfully to His call; let the incense of your fervent prayer rise up to him, in praise of His glory; offer Him your myrrh, that is your affection of total gratitude to Him, true Man, who loved us to the point of dying as a criminal on Golgotha.

5. Be worshippers of the only true God, giving Him pride of place in your lives! ... My dear young people, do not yield to false illusions and passing fads which so frequently leave behind a tragic spiritual vacuum! Reject the seduction of wealth, consumerism and the subtle violence sometimes used by the mass media. Worshipping the true God is an authentic act of resistance to all forms of idolatry. Worship Christ: He is the Rock on which to build your future and a world of greater justice and solidarity. Jesus is the Prince of peace: the source of forgiveness and reconciliation, who can make brothers and sisters of all the members of the human family.

6. 'The Gospel tells us that after their meeting with Christ, the Magi returned home 'by another way', (Mt 2:12). This change of route can symbolize the conversion to which all those who encounter Jesus are called, in order to become the true worshippers that He desires (cf. Jn 4: 23-24). This entails imitating the way He acted by becoming, as the apostle Paul writes, 'a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God'.

Listening to Christ and worshipping Him leads us to make courageous choices, to take what are sometimes heroic decisions. Jesus is demanding, because He wishes our genuine happiness. ... Turn to Christ and you will not be let down.

7. ... My dear young people as you move forward in spirit towards Cologne, the Pope will accompany you with his prayers. May Mary, 'Eucharistic woman' and Mother of Wisdom, support you along the way, enlighten your decisions, and teach you to love what is true, good and beautiful. May she lead you all to her Son, who alone can satisfy the innermost yearnings of the human mind and heart.

Go with my blessing!

Pope John Paul II