

LITURGY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 No. 4

September 2005

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

Synod on The Eucharist: Source and Summit

Pope Benedict XVI has confirmed that the 11th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be celebrated on the theme: "The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church," and decreed that it be held in the Vatican from October 2 to 23, 2005.

The president's delegates of the Synod are: Cardinals Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments, Juan Sandoval Iniguez, Archbishop of Guadalajara, Mexico and Telesphore Placidus Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi, India. The relator general is Cardinal Angelo Scola, patriarch of Venice, Italy and the special secretary is Archbishop Roland Minnerath of Dijon, France.

The Bishops nominated to represent the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales are Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, President of the Bishops' Conference and Archbishop of Westminster, and Bishop Brian Noble, Bishop of Shrewsbury and chairman of the Bishops' Conference Spirituality Committee.

As in preceding synods, the number of participants will be about 250. However there will be a notable increase in the representatives of denominations and ecclesial communities invited to the Synod. At the last synod representatives of six churches and Christian communities participated, now 12 representatives have been invited from Orthodox Churches, the ancient churches of the East and communities that arose from the Reformation.

Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general of the synod, has highlighted other innovative features of this Synod, all approved by Pope Benedict.

Previous Synods have lasted a whole month, as this was originally intended to. This synod now last 'only' three weeks, so that Bishops need not be so long absent from their Dioceses and to foster greater concentration during the discussions.

Each participant will be able to address the Synod for six minutes, not eight, as in the past. The limitation on the length of the more formal individual addresses to the Synod will free up time and allow for an hour's free discussion every day at the end of the general congregation of the Synod. The hope is that this innovation will allow members to request and obtain more information from synodal fathers who have already spoken in the assembly hall, and make possible an open exchange of points of view and experiences on the most important current issues connected with the mystery of the Eucharist."

The discussions will take place in the Synod's five official languages: Italian, French, English, Spanish and German. In the past, some participants spoke in Latin.

Archbishop Eterovic notes that these various changes are all intended to make dialogue easier and more beneficial among the synodal fathers in the exercise of effective and affective collegiality among themselves and with the Holy Father, visible head of the episcopal order. They provide a clear indication of a pastoral priority of the ministry of John Paul II and of the work of renewal to which the Church is called to commit herself.

There will be 12 working groups, each of which will present proposals reflecting the fruits of their respective deliberations. These will then be voted on and, as approved by the Synod, will then be submitted to Pope Benedict for his consideration. Following the Synod the Holy Father will then write the postsynodal apostolic exhortation, his own teaching on the theme of the Synod, informed by the reflections of the Synod fathers.

The Synod's working paper, the *Instrumentum Laboris*, has been published. It was prepared from the responses received from Bishops' Conferences, Synods of Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches; the 25 dicasteries of the Roman Curia; and the Union of Superiors General of religious congregations and orders. Numerous submissions were also received from individual members of the clergy, religious and lay faithful. (See page 4 of this Newsletter for further details.)

We bring Christ, present under the sign of bread, onto the streets of our city. We entrust these streets, these homes, our daily life, to his goodness. May our streets be streets of Jesus! May our houses be homes for him and with him! May our life of every day be penetrated by his presence.

With this gesture, let us place under his eyes the sufferings of the sick, the solitude of young people and the elderly, temptations, fears — our entire life. The procession represents an immense and public blessing for our city:

The purpose of this communion, of this partaking, is the assimilation of my life with his, my transformation and conformation into he who is living Love. Therefore, this communion implies adoration, it implies the will to follow Christ, to follow the One who goes ahead of us. Adoration and procession thereby make up a single gesture of communion; they answer his mandate: "Take and eat".

From homily of Pope Benedict XVI
for Corpus Christi

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Coming Events

Joint Liturgical Group Conference

'Space for Living Worship
— worshipping in today's world'
13–15 September 2005
Ushaw College, Co. Durham.
Speakers include Revd Dr Donald
Gray and Magnus Linklater.
For further information contact
conference2005@jlg.org.uk

Panel of Monastic Musicians

With Hearts and Hands and Voices
19–23 September 2005
St Gabriel's, Ditchingham, Norfolk
A Conference exploring a holistic
approach to worship.
Leaders of the Conference include
Stephen Dean, Geoff Weaver, and
Bill Tamblyn
For booking details or further
information please contact Fr Mark
Hartley.

Society of St Gregory

AGM and annual Crichton Lecture
12 November 2005
Westminster Cathedral Hall,
London
Members of the Society of St
Gregory will lead the music and
singing at the 6pm Mass in the
Cathedral.
Details from secretary@ssg.org.uk

Taize European Meeting for Young People

Milan, 28 December – 1 January
Details on www.taize.fr/en.

St Bede's Institute, Ushaw

'Resourcing Ordinary Time'
6 May 2006
A one day course exploring
resources for the Mass and other
liturgies in Ordinary Time. It is
intended for all who are active
as worship leaders in their parish
or school including teachers,
musicians, chaplains, religious and
clergy. The day will culminate in an
act of worship using some of the
resources encountered.
Details from www.ushaw.ac.uk

CIEL UK

CIEL 11th International Colloquium
14–16 September 2006,
Merton College Oxford.
For further details see www.CIEL-UK.org

Society of Liturgical Studies

Conference,
22–24 August 2006

Recent and forthcoming publications

Burns and Oates (who replace Chapman's as Continuum's Catholic imprint) have recently published a study edition of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Using the text of RCIA approved for use in England and Wales it is made available in a soft-covered edition, printed in two colours. It is attractively priced so that priest, catechists, musicians and liturgy preparation groups can all have direct access to the official ritual book to assist them in their work.

Burns and Oates are also publishers for a new volume of the *Order of Christian Funerals* commissioned by the Department for Christian Life and Worship in response to pastoral need. When the edition of OCF for England and Wales was first published separate printed pages of the Committal Rite were made available to be put into folders for use at the graveside. These are no longer available except from the Liturgy Office website, and in any case were often judged less than suitable for ministerial use. People asked for a more manageable and more presentable book. Others asked for the book to contain the Lectionary for Masses for the Dead. There followed extended consideration of how best to respond to these requests. The answer seemed to be a new volume: *The Order of Christian Funerals: The Committal Rites*.

The Department approved its publication only after its pastoral value and suitability for use had been confirmed by trials involving priests and lay ministers from a number of English and Welsh dioceses

A further resource for funerals has been published recently. Readers will be aware of the controversy that surrounded 'People's Books' at the time of the publication of OCF. A fresh attempt has been made to meet people's request for a book that will help people (especially those who are unfamiliar with Catholic liturgy) take part in the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy outside Mass. The slim paper-covered volume, *The Funeral Book*, has been published by Redemptorist Publications.

The opportunity has been taken to provide commentary and guidance not only to assist those taking part in the liturgy, but those who are going to be planning a liturgy. The size of the booklet precludes it offering the sort of information provided by *Into Your Hands* (A document of the Bishops' Conference published by Decani Music). But it offers gentle reminders of the Church's expectations concerning readings and music, and brief commentary on some of the symbols of the funeral liturgy.

The *Book of Blessings* is not a new book, but for all its having been around for quite a while, a book that has not yet found its way onto the bookshelves in many parishes (and even Diocesan offices). As no edition of this book has yet been produced for England and Wales – and is not likely to be for quite some years, given the need to focus on the new edition of the Missal – the Bishops have granted permission for the United States edition to be used here. This is not a volume you are likely to need to use every day but it is a most useful resource for

keeping the Church Year – blessings for saints days and seasons, for Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day – for responding to events in people's lives – wedding anniversaries and engagements; times of struggle and challenge (cf. the prayer for those struggling with addiction) and so on. Queries to the Liturgy Office are often resolved by directing people to this book published by Liturgical Press and available from Columba Press.

Other frequent enquiries to the Liturgy Office concern the likely publication date of the new edition of the Missal and translation of the Lectionary. We have long since given up on offering a date.

The Lectionary project awaits the Holy See's approval. ICEL is unlikely to complete its work of preparing its proposed translation of the Missal for perhaps two more years. Then the Bishops need to review and revise that translation as they see fit. Then their decisions have to be referred to the Holy See for *recognitio*.

In the meantime Harper Collins has produced new editions of the current text in people's *Sunday* and *Weekday Missals*...

Something for Nothing...

Information leaflets for the parish

Catholic Funerals - A guide is a simple 2 sided A4 sheet which offers information about the Church's funeral liturgy. It describes the basic pattern of the Order of Christian Funerals and simple guidance on what to do when someone has died. It is a leaflet that can be made available to anyone in a parish simply as an information sheet (print some off and make them available during November). But it is especially helpful for families and friends as they respond to a bereavement and begin to plan the funeral. The leaflet can be downloaded free from the Liturgy Office website.

Available from the same website is *When Someone is Ill* – a guide to the sorts of forms of pastoral and liturgical ministry that the Church offers to those who are seriously ill. It is again a useful resource to use in raising awareness of these things in the parish generally, as well as of particular interest to those who are more seriously ill and to their families and friends.

Leading God's People in Prayer

This publication of the National Liturgy Secretaries of Europe was first published in 1991 and has long been out of print. Permission has been obtained to make it available free of charge on the Liturgy Office website. *Leading God's People in Prayer* offers a simple analysis and clear guidance concerning the ministry of leading the prayer of the Church. It will be found of equal value to clergy and lay leaders of prayer (both of liturgical prayer and of times of prayer opening and closing catechetical/small group sessions).

Book reviews

Because of pressure of space book reviews are now put directly on the Liturgy Office website. New reviews are added regularly.

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/News-Letter/Reviews

Recent reviews include reviews of John McCann's *Entrance Antiphons for the church year*; *Gathering for Worship - a guide for worship in the Baptist Union*; and a new edition of Gregory Dix's *The Shape of Liturgy*.

Recommendations of books for review are welcomed.

Liturgy Office Website

Have you had difficulty finding things on the Liturgy Office website by the new 'Search Facility'? We do try to put things in logical places and properly cross-reference them. But things should be made easier by the new search engine. All you need do now is press 'Search' (top right hand corner of the webpage), type in a keyword and electronic wizardry should take care of the rest.

Peace be with you.

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and San Anselmo, the Pontifical Liturgical Institute collaborated in co-hosting a seminar on the topic of 'Peace and Liturgy: An Itinerary of Search.'

The objective of the seminar was to reflect more profoundly on the close relationship that exists between liturgical celebrations and the social and political commitment of peace.

A particular theme identified in a letter of greeting from Pope Benedict in a letter of greeting to participants was the pastoral care of ecclesial communities that live in situations of conflict and war, caused by poverty, abuse, oppression, and ethnic or racial hatreds.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council, has announced that Council will present the fruits of the seminar in a document which will explore 'the liturgical mysteries as events of peace'. He said the liturgy should be appreciated 'as a great school of peace, capable of forming and educating in peace and as a realm of Christian and communal discernment on responsibilities linked to the promotion of peace.'

Liturgical Study

A reminder of the bursary available for any seminarian or priest of an English Catholic diocese to assist with their fees in their study at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute, Sant' Anselmo, Rome. The first bursary will be granted for Academic year 2006/7. Suitable applicants should reply in English or Italian to: Mgr James Crichton Bursary for the study of Liturgy, The Preside, Pontifical Liturgical Institute, Pzza Cavalieri di Malta,

5, 00153 Roma, Italia or e-mail: pil.roma@iol.it

E-giving

A survey of parishes using its services has been carried out by ParishPay, an organisation that offers electronic giving services to churches in the US.

98.7% of the 1000 who replied said that they would recommend ParishPay to others and 96.4% held that ParishPay is much better than collection envelopes.

ParishPay do not comment on the implications of electronic giving for the integrity of the liturgical action of offering and procession of gifts. The Liturgy Office would welcome comments from any parish that has experience of encouraging electronic giving.

Images of England

Images of England is a heritage initiative run by the National Monuments Record (NMR), the public archive of English Heritage. The project aims to create a 'point in time' photographic record of every listed building in England. Each of the images are being posted alongside existing list descriptions for each building to create what will be one of the largest free to access digital image libraries in the world with over 300,000 images when complete.

The photographs of each building are linked to the relevant written List Description. These lists, written by experts within English Heritage on behalf of the Secretary of State, are public documents. They give an architectural description of each building including the address.

The Center for Liturgy

No its not a spelling mistake! St Louis University, Louisiana have a Center for Liturgy and it has established a very interesting web presence. Their site provides a variety resources related to Sunday worship. 'Praying toward Sunday' perhaps speaks for itself, 'Spirituality for Sunday - Sunday readings; thoughts on liturgy and justice, discussion questions; 'Looking more closely at the word' - study of the readings at different levels and by different authors; thoughts from the early

Church, 'Music of Sunday Mass' a guide to preparing to choose music, and resources to assist with that.

There is much that might assist ministers of the liturgy here. The version of the scriptures used is, of course, that authorised for use in the USA - the *New American Bible* translation. That is a drawback so far as those in England and Wales are concerned.

Again the Liturgy Office would be interested to hear from readers what sorts of web-based resources they presently find useful, and what less so, as well as what they would like to find. Your comments can then be fed into the reflections on the matter that will be taking place regarding the web-based resources that might be made available at the time of publication of the translation of the new edition of the Roman Missal.

Resources for Prayer and Devotion

The Prayer Trust is a registered charity providing attractive (and cheap) booklets and prayercards that will almost certainly find a welcome and ready use in most parishes. Examples include booklets of prayers for use in the principal liturgical seasons, *Lord, show me your paths* for anyone presently searching and in need of the Lord's guidance, *Peace to this house* - a booklet that might be given to a family newly moved into a parish, or after a house blessing, booklets for those who are seriously ill and for the bereaved, that might be distributed to the sick and housebound, and those newly bereaved, perhaps on a home visit after the funeral liturgies have been celebrated. The shorter booklets (c. 12 pages) cost only 10p, the larger ones (c. 28 pages) cost only 50p. The simple bookmarks which might be given to members of parish groups to mark seasons, or particular events in the life of the group or parish cost only 5p. Samples of the resources that The Prayer Trust can offer can be seen on their website. Free samples of future booklets are promised to those on the Trust's mailing list.

We cannot communicate with the Lord if we do not communicate with one another. If we want to present ourselves to him, we must also take a step towards meeting one another.

To do this we must learn the great lesson of forgiveness: we must not let the gnawings of resentment work in our soul, but must open our hearts to the magnanimity of listening to others, open our hearts to understanding them, eventually to accepting their apologies, to generously offering our own.

I ask you all to set out with determination on the path of that spiritual ecumenism which, through prayer, opens the doors to the Holy Spirit, who alone can create unity.

Pope Benedict XVI
Address at the
Closing of the 24th Italian
National Eucharistic Congress
29th May 2005

Web addresses

E-giving

<http://www.parishpay.com/>

Images of England

<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/>

St Louis University-Center for Liturgy

<http://www.liturgy.slu.edu/>

The Prayer Trust

<http://www.theprayer-trust.org.uk>

Magazine subscriptions

Since 2003 the Liturgy Office has offered 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.

Those interested in taking out subscriptions for 2006 are invited to look at the Office website to see the range of periodicals available and to register their interest via the website.

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Subscriptions

Liturgy Newsletter

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter
ISSN 1748-5347

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Instrumentum Laboris on 'The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church'

The full text of the Instrumentum Laboris for the forthcoming XI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, from which the following is extracted, can be found on the Liturgy Office website.

Sunday Eucharist

69. The responses ask that greater attention be given to the celebration of the Eucharist on the *Dies Domini*, a Holyday of Obligation in the Church for the community of faith and every believer. In this context, emphasis is placed on the importance of the community coming together to celebrate that the Lord is coming into its midst. Without faith, however, we cannot even speak of the Lord's Day, let alone live it. Sundays provide an opportunity to view the world in light of the Eucharist. The Mass is Christ's sacrifice which changes the world and calls upon the Church to become an offering, extending herself to all.

The Eucharist is also the source of a culture of pardon, difficult for many today. During the Eucharistic celebration the request is often made for forgiveness and a life renewed. Pope John Paul II called upon us to see as "a significant consequence of the eschatological tension inherent in the Eucharist," the planting of seeds of a lively hope in daily life and creating new signs in the world, so that the Eucharist can be said to be truly lived.

The Lord's Day is also the day of solidarity and sharing with the poor, in so much as the Eucharist is the bond of fellowship and the source of communion. Indeed, "from the Sunday Mass there flows a tide of charity destined to spread into the whole life of the faithful, beginning by inspiring the very way in which they live the rest of Sunday."

70. Without Sunday Mass and an encounter with the Lord, faith remains without nourishment; God's Word receives no hearing nor is the communal dimension of the Church lived. For many, the only contact with the Church is Sunday Mass; their faith depends on this moment in their lives. Missing Sunday Mass gradually leads to missing Christ in life. All members of the People of God, especially the clergy, those in the consecrated life, catechists and members of ecclesial movements, ought to be involved in promoting respect for the Lord's Day. Coming together in synodal assembly should lead to a rediscovery of the profound theological and spiritual significance of Sunday as the Lord's Day and its proper celebration, which in turn will have very positive effects in the faithful, their families and entire communities.

Indeed, dedicating time to the Lord each Sunday and Holyday of Obligation, the individual, as a person and member of a family, rediscovers the hierarchy of values which are to shape his existence. Likewise, he takes advantage of his free time, in union with God, his Creator and Redeemer, to exercise his human and Christian capabilities for the good of society. To achieve this, it is important

to safeguard Sunday as a day of rest, particularly in countries with Christian roots.

Various Lineamenta responses ask for pastoral initiatives which will lead to a greater attendance of the faithful at Mass, particularly on Sundays. In celebrating the Lord's Day, the faithful, who are oftentimes vexed by various personal, family and social problems, receive acceptance in a welcoming community and can draw from the Eucharist, the font of life, the gifts of peace and spiritual comfort and the power necessary to conform their lives and the world to the plan of God the Father in Jesus Christ.

In today's world, the celebration of the Mass needs to be guaranteed to the greatest possible number of the faithful. Emphasis should be given to the essential dispositions for worthily receiving the Eucharist, that is, the state of grace and fasting. Those who live in a moral state which does not allow them to participate in the Eucharist sacramentally also need pastoral care.

With regard to the preceding, the proposal was made to present in a general way the doctrine of spiritual communion or communion of desire, which rests on the privileges conferred at Baptism and is the only form of Holy Communion available to some people who, because of their objective and personal state, cannot receive Communion sacramentally. Spiritual communion, for example, is always possible for elderly persons and the sick who cannot go to Church. In manifesting their love for the Eucharist, they participate in the Communion of Saints with great spiritual benefit for themselves and the Church. By offering their sufferings to God, the Church is enriched. In this way, they complete what is lacking in the passion of Jesus Christ for the sake of his body, the Church (cf. Col 1:24). They also proclaim the "Gospel of Suffering," which the Master gave to the disciples in his sacrifice and left as a memorial in the Eucharist.

One of the most challenging aspects of the Church's pastoral program today is helping others rediscover the joy of celebrating the Eucharist on Sundays, because the world increasingly tends to see the day as simply a time of relaxation and not one of profound communion and celebration. Equally challenging is attempting to encourage entire families to participate at Holy Mass. In this way, the "domestic church"—the family—broadens its Christian horizons and, in communion with other families—other "domestic churches"—rediscovers that it is a living part of the great Family of God, the Catholic Church.

Finally, Sunday observance by Catholics becomes a distinctive sign, particularly in countries where Catholics are in the minority. Praying together and then transforming this act into works of charity contributes to the betterment of society, above all in nations where an individualistic idea traditionally prevails in relation of the human to the divine.