

# LITURGY NEWSLETTER

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

## The Sacrament of Charity

*Sacramentum Caritatis*, the post-synodal exhortation by Pope Benedict XVI, was published on 13 March. The document follows the pattern set by Paul VI and John Paul II of following a meeting of the Synod of Bishops with an Apostolic Exhortation. The Eleventh Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops was held in Rome in October 2005 and took as its theme *The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church*. This followed the Year of Eucharist instigated by John Paul II.

The exhortation takes as its starting point the 50 propositions that were formulated by the Synod Fathers. These are closely woven into the text of the document. The text is divided into three sections: *The Eucharist, a Mystery to be Believed; The Eucharist, a Mystery to be Celebrated; The Eucharist, a Mystery to be Lived*. The first part offers a theology of the Eucharist which is explored first through the Trinity, then the Sacraments and then in eschatology and the Virgin Mary. The second part on celebration looks at some key parts of the Mass that were raised during the Synod including the homily and the sign of peace. This is framed by sections looking at liturgy as the work of the 'whole Christ', the liturgy and beauty, the art of good celebration and the meaning of active participation. A clear link is drawn between how well the liturgy is celebrated and participation in the liturgy. The third part looks at the Eucharist as a model for the Christian life. Connections are made between the Eucharist and not just how individuals live their lives (Eucharistic Consistency) but also the link with the Church's social teaching — the bread broken for the life of the world.

*Sacramentum Caritatis* has been published by Catholic Truth Society. A short leaflet *Introducing Sacramentum Caritatis* has been prepared by the Liturgy Office and can be downloaded from the website.

## Synod on the Word

The next Synod will be 17–21 October 2008 on *The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church*. The *lineamenta* for the Synod was published on 27 April. This document prepares for the Synod meeting by giving an overview of the subject and asking a series of questions to be responded to by Bishops' Conferences. The document is in 3 parts: *Revelation, the Word of God and the Church; the Word of God in the life of the Church and the Word of God in the mission of the Church*. The introduction to the document explicitly makes the link between this Synod and the previous one on the Eucharist, the intrinsic connection between Word and Eucharist. The document can be found on the Vatican Website.

## News from Bishops' Conference

The Easter meeting of the Bishops' Conference was held in Leeds 23–26 April. On the Monday the bishops celebrated both the Solemnity of St George and the 80th birthday of the Holy Father with Mass at the newly refurbished Leeds Cathedral. Most of the items on the agenda of the Department for Christian Life and Worship were ongoing matters including marriage rites, liturgical music, and electronic publishing. The Department received the annual reports of the Committees for Liturgy, Patrimony and Spirituality together with that for the Liturgy Office. These have been placed on the Department website.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may the Holy Spirit kindle within us the same ardour experienced by the disciples on the way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35) and renew our "eucharistic wonder" through the splendour and beauty radiating from the liturgical rite, the efficacious sign of the infinite beauty of the holy mystery of God. Those disciples arose and returned in haste to Jerusalem in order to share their joy with their brothers and sisters in the faith. True joy is found in recognizing that the Lord is still with us, our faithful companion along the way. The Eucharist makes us discover that Christ, risen from the dead, is our contemporary in the mystery of the Church, his body. Of this mystery of love we have become witnesses. Let us encourage one another to walk joyfully, our hearts filled with wonder, towards our encounter with the Holy Eucharist, so that we may experience and proclaim to others the truth of the words with which Jesus took leave of his disciples: "Lo, I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Mt 28:20).

Benedict XVI  
*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 97

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## Coming Events

### Church Singing Workshop for Choirs

9 June 2007

St John's Seminary Womersley  
organised by The Music Makers  
[www.themusicmakers.org](http://www.themusicmakers.org)

### Accompanying the Journey

RCIA Network Study Days

30 June — Tooting Bec, London

5 July — York

11 July — Derby

[www.rcia.org.uk](http://www.rcia.org.uk)

### Becoming the Body of Christ

Society of St Gregory Summer School

30 July — 3 August 2007

Sneaton Castle, Whitby.

[www.ssg.org.uk](http://www.ssg.org.uk)

### Re-pitching the Psalms —

Psalmody and Liturgical Space

Panel of Monastic Musicians

17–21 September 2007

All Hallows, Ditchingham

[giftshop@abbeymsb.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:giftshop@abbeymsb.freeserve.co.uk)

### Links from Page 1

#### Sacramentum Caritatis

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_exh\\_20070222\\_sacramentum-caritatis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20070222_sacramentum-caritatis_en.html)

#### Introducing Sacramentum Caritatis (pdf)

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/liturgy/Resources/YOE/IntroducingSC.pdf>

#### Catholic Truth Society

[www.cts-online.org.uk](http://www.cts-online.org.uk)

#### Synod of Bishops

[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/index.htm)

#### Department reports

[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/liturgy/Department/Reports/index.html](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/liturgy/Department/Reports/index.html)

#### Calendar Notes

[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/index.html#Notes](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/index.html#Notes)

#### 2008 Calendar

[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/2008](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/2008)

#### Home is a Holy Place

[www.homeisaholyplace.org.uk](http://www.homeisaholyplace.org.uk)

#### CJM Music

[www.cjmmusic.com](http://www.cjmmusic.com)

#### RCIA Study Days

[www.rcia.org.uk/Events/2007/](http://www.rcia.org.uk/Events/2007/)

#### Brisbane Catholic Leader

[www.catholicleader.com.au/index.php?pgnum=7](http://www.catholicleader.com.au/index.php?pgnum=7)

## Roman Missal — update

The bishops have received from ICEL for review and comment 3 'Green Books': *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children, Ritual Masses and Masses for Various Needs and Intentions*. This nearly completes this first stage of the process. A description of the process translating liturgical books is given on page 3.

## Pam Class

The Office's administrative assistant Pam Class retired from her post at the end of March. We are grateful for her dedicated contribution to the work of the Office over the last two years. Many will have appreciated her cheerful and engaging presence at meetings or on the phone.

## Liturgical Calendar 2008

Each year the Liturgy Office produces Calendar Notes for the following year together with draft notes for the year after (i.e. 2008 and 2009). The notes give details of the main aspects of the liturgical calendar including details of moveable feasts and the Cycle of Prayer. There is an email list that can be signed up for on the website where an email is sent out when information has been posted.

The Liturgy Office website also provides a fuller day by day calendar which has now been made available up to December 2008.

## Home is a Holy Place

The *Listening 2004* project on marriage and family life identified 3 areas for follow up. In 2007 the theme is *Home is a Holy Place*. It is about seeing, knowing and responding to God's presence at home in our families, in the ordinary events of our daily lives, in the deep joys and sorrows we experience together and in our

relationships with one another, whether we are children, siblings, parents, spouses, friends or neighbours.

Alongside the diocesan and local events there is a website that offers lots of resources including a *Thought for the week* as a resource for bulletins and the newly produced leaflet: *Family — an adventure in love*.

## Christ and his Church

Pope Benedict has followed up the commentaries on the Psalms and Canticles of Evening Prayer with reflections on each of the Apostles. These have now been published by Catholic Truth Society with the title *Christ and his Church: seeing the face of Jesus in the Church of the Apostles*.

## Sunday

### Responsorial Psalms

CJM music have begun on their website a Responsorial Psalm Library. It offers for every Sunday a simple psalm setting which can be downloaded both as a PDF (for printed music) or an MP3 file (for listening to).

## Accompanying the Journey

The RCIA Network of England and Wales is offering 3 study days across the country in June and July. In the morning the challenges of discernment and accompanying the journey will be looked at; in the afternoon there will be a choice of two workshops: *Ritual Moments* on the liturgies of RCIA and *Why some people walk away*.

The days will be held at: Tooting Bec (30 June), York (5 July), and Derby (11 July). See the RCIA Network website for more details.

## Becoming the Body of Christ

This year's Society of St Gregory Summer School will be held at Sneaton Castle Whitby from 30 July – 3 August. The central theme will be: *Becoming the Body of Christ: Communion and Mission*. The Summer School will include lectures, seminars and workshops on diverse topics including Chant in English, RCIA and Spirituality and Community in art and film.

Further details and a booking form can be found on the SSG website.

## Repitching the Psalms

The annual meeting of the Panel of Monastic Musicians will be at Ditchingham 17–21 September. The conference will look at both liturgical space and ways of singing the psalms. Speakers include Richard Giles, Paul Inwood and Catherine Christmas.

## Giving God's Word full attention

In an article in Brisbane's *Catholic Leader* Elizabeth Harrington refers to research from the University of New South Wales which shows that the human brain processes and retains more information if it is digested in either its verbal or written form, but not both at the same time. More of the passages would be understood and retained, the researchers suggest, if heard or read separately.

'It is effective to speak to a diagram, because it presents information in a different form. But it is not effective to read the same words that are being said, because it is putting too much load on the mind and decreases your ability to understand what is being presented.'

# Liturgy and *livesimply*

2007 marks the 40th anniversary of *Populorum Progressio*, Paul VI's encyclical on the development of peoples. The *livesimply* network has been set up both to remind people of this important document and to find ways of expressing its central themes today.

The *livesimply* message is:

God calls us to look hard at our lifestyles and to choose to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. In this way we can help create a world in which human dignity is respected and everyone can reach their full potential. This would be true progress, worth more than economic growth alone.

The *livesimply* website offers some liturgy ideas and resources. This short article looks at some more general questions and ideas.

Simplicity was one of the key themes of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: 'The rites should be marked by a noble simplicity...' (SC 34)

## Simple Liturgy

- Be careful about prayer services which are too wordy: 'they should be within the people's powers of comprehension and as a rule not

require much explanation' (SC 34). Trust silence, symbol and people's intelligence.

- Identify a phrase from the Liturgy of the Word each week which highlights the *livesimply* message.

## Solidarity and Liturgy

- How accessible is the liturgy of your community? Before offering solidarity with the wider world how might we first experience it in the parish. Check out some of the ideas from the *Everybody's Welcome* website.
- Make sure that the opportunity is taken to connect what is prayed in the Prayer of the Faithful with appropriate action whether it is visiting the sick and housebound or writing to your MP.

## Sustainable Liturgy

- Is every leaflet or piece of paper necessary?
- Explore the use of local or fairtrade products that are the 'work of peoples' hands'.
- How does liturgy sustain people's lives? How might sacraments be starting points? What support and care is there for those baptised or married?

Martin Foster

# Roman Missal — the Process of Translation

A common question to the Liturgy Office is 'When will the new edition of the Missal be published?' Usually the enquirer is considering the purchase of a new people's Missal or whether their Altar Missal should be rebound. It is hard to give an exact date but it is possible to give an outline of the process that needs to be gone through before publication. There is perhaps a healthy tension between the desire that we have the new translation as soon as possible and the recognition that time must be given for a good, faithful translation together with the need to follow processes that allow bishops to be properly involved in the decision making.

The task of translating liturgical texts is governed by the document of the Congregation for Divine Worship, *Liturgiam Authenticam*. It is carried out in English by a mixed Commission of the Bishops' Conferences — ICEL.

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) prepares the English translation of the Latin text based on the principles given in *Liturgiam Authenticam*. Any text which is prepared by ICEL has first to be approved by the bishops of the Commission (one bishop from each of the 11 participating Conferences) before distribution to Bishops' Conferences.

The first text sent out for review and comment is referred to as the 'Green Book'. For the

Missal our bishops have commented on: the Order of Mass I and II, the Proper of Seasons, the Proper of Saints I. As noted on page 2 the bishops have just received the Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children, Ritual Masses, and Masses for Various Needs and Intentions. Green Books that are forthcoming include: Masses for the Dead, Antiphons and Proper of Saints II.

The comments from the 11 Conferences are received by ICEL and the text revised in the light of them. A new version of the text is approved by the ICEL bishops for distribution and this is referred to as the 'Grey Book'.

The Grey Book is intended to be a final draft and is therefore the text for voting on by the Bishops' Conference. Only one Grey Book has been received so far: Order of Mass I. When all the Grey Books have been approved by the bishops the whole Missal can be sent to the Congregation for Divine Worship for *recognitio*.

Once the text has been received back from the Holy See it could be used in the worship of the Church but it is expected that a certain amount of time will be necessary to prepare for publication not just of the Altar Missal but also for people's Missals and other pastoral aids. It is also usual for liturgical books that there will be a date set when it may be used from and a date from which it is mandatory.

Martin Foster

Since the language of music is universal, we see people from completely different cultural and religious backgrounds who let themselves be gripped and likewise guided by it and who also interpret it.

Today, this universal aspect of music is given special emphasis, thanks to the electronic and digital instruments of communications. How many people there are in the most diverse countries who are able to take part in this musical performance at home, or experience it later!

I am convinced that music... really is the universal language of beauty which can bring together all people of good will on earth and get them to lift their gaze on high and open themselves to the Absolute Good and Beauty whose ultimate source is God himself.

In looking back over my life, I thank God for placing music beside me, as it were, as a travelling companion that has offered me comfort and joy. I also thank the people who from the very first years of my childhood brought me close to this source of inspiration and serenity.

I thank those who combine music and prayer in harmonious praise of God and his works: they help us glorify the Creator and Redeemer of the world, which is the marvellous work of his hands.

This is my hope: that the greatness and beauty of music will also give you, dear friends, new and continuous inspiration in order to build a world of love, solidarity and peace.

Pope Benedict XVI  
address following the concert  
offered him for his 80th birthday  
(16 April 2007)

### *livesimply*

[www.livesimply.org.uk](http://www.livesimply.org.uk)  
[www.cafod.org.uk/resources/workshop/livesimply\\_worship](http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/workshop/livesimply_worship)

### Everybody's Welcome

[www.everybodyswelcome.org.uk](http://www.everybodyswelcome.org.uk)

### ICEL

[www.icelweb.org](http://www.icelweb.org)

### Liturgiam Authenticam

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccdds\\_doc\\_20010507\\_liturgiam-authenticam\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20010507_liturgiam-authenticam_en.html)

# The Sacrament of Charity

An excerpt from the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation Pope Benedict XVI. The following section on Mystagogical Catechesis is particularly suitable for the Easter Season.

## 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](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Newsletter)

## Liturgy Newsletter

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## Interior participation in the celebration

### *Mystagogical catechesis*

64. The Church's great liturgical tradition teaches us that fruitful participation in the liturgy requires that one be personally conformed to the mystery being celebrated, offering one's life to God in unity with the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the whole world. For this reason, the Synod of Bishops asked that the faithful be helped to make their interior dispositions correspond to their gestures and words. Otherwise, however carefully planned and executed our liturgies may be, they would risk falling into a certain ritualism. Hence the need to provide an education in eucharistic faith capable of enabling the faithful to live personally what they celebrate. Given the vital importance of this personal and conscious participation, what methods of formation are needed? The Synod Fathers unanimously indicated, in this regard, a mystagogical approach to catechesis, which would lead the faithful to understand more deeply the mysteries being celebrated. In particular, given the close relationship between the *ars celebrandi* and an *actuosa participatio*, it must first be said that 'the best catechesis on the Eucharist is the Eucharist itself, celebrated well'. By its nature, the liturgy can be pedagogically effective in helping the faithful to enter more deeply into the mystery being celebrated. That is why, in the Church's most ancient tradition, the process of Christian formation always had an experiential character. While not neglecting a systematic understanding of the content of the faith, it centred on a vital and convincing encounter with Christ, as proclaimed by authentic witnesses. It is first and foremost the witness who introduces others to the mysteries. Naturally, this initial encounter gains depth through catechesis and finds its source and summit in the celebration of the Eucharist. This basic structure of the Christian experience calls for a process of mystagogy which should always respect three elements:

a) *It interprets the rites in the light of the events of our salvation*, in accordance with the Church's living tradition. The celebration of the Eucharist, in its infinite richness, makes constant reference to salvation history. In Christ crucified and risen, we truly celebrate the one who has united all things in himself (cf. Eph 1:10). From the beginning,

the Christian community has interpreted the events of Jesus' life, and the Paschal Mystery in particular, in relation to the entire history of the Old Testament.

- b) A mystagogical catechesis must also be concerned with *presenting the meaning of the signs* contained in the rites. This is particularly important in a highly technological age like our own, which risks losing the ability to appreciate signs and symbols. More than simply conveying information, a mystagogical catechesis should be capable of making the faithful more sensitive to the language of signs and gestures which, together with the word, make up the rite.
- c) Finally, a mystagogical catechesis must be concerned with bringing out the *significance of the rites for the Christian life* in all its dimensions – work and responsibility, thoughts and emotions, activity and repose. Part of the mystagogical process is to demonstrate how the mysteries celebrated in the rite are linked to the missionary responsibility of the faithful. The mature fruit of mystagogy is an awareness that one's life is being progressively transformed by the holy mysteries being celebrated. The aim of all Christian education, moreover, is to train the believer in an adult faith that can make him a "new creation", capable of bearing witness in his surroundings to the Christian hope that inspires him.

If we are to succeed in carrying out this work of education in our ecclesial communities, those responsible for formation must be adequately prepared. Indeed, the whole people of God should feel involved in this formation. Each Christian community is called to be a place where people can be taught about the mysteries celebrated in faith. In this regard, the Synod Fathers called for greater involvement by communities of consecrated life, movements and groups which, by their specific charisms, can give new impetus to Christian formation. In our time, too, the Holy Spirit freely bestows his gifts to sustain the apostolic mission of the Church, which is charged with spreading the faith and bringing it to maturity.

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