

# LITURGY NEWSLETTER

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

## Motu Proprio: Summorum Pontificum

On 7 July Pope Benedict XVI published his long awaited *Motu Proprio* on the use of the Roman Liturgy prior to the reform of 1970. The *Motu Proprio*, legislation published by the Pope's own initiative, replaces all previous indults.

The Holy Father accompanied *Summorum Pontificum* with a Letter to Bishops. In the letter he gave reasons for the publication of the *Motu Proprio*. He noted that there was a need for 'clearer juridical regulation' which had not been previously foreseen. The Norms 'are also meant to free bishops from constantly having to evaluate anew how they are to respond to various situations'. Pope Benedict also speaks of the obligation 'to make every effort to enable for all those who truly desire unity to remain in that unity or to attain it anew'.

The Pope speaks of two forms of the Roman Missal 'the two fold use of one and the same rite': the Ordinary form — the Missal of Paul VI is the normal 'expression of the *Lex orandi* (Law of Prayer) of the Catholic Church of the Latin Rite' and the Extraordinary form — the Missal of Bl. John XXIII, the 1962 edition of the Roman Missal issued following the Council of Trent. 'There is no contradiction between the two editions of the Roman Missal. In the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress, but no rupture. What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too.'

The Norms allows priests when they celebrate without the people to use either the Ordinary or Extraordinary form without the need for further permission. The Holy Father does note that use of the Extraordinary form 'presupposes a certain degree of liturgical formation and some knowledge of the Latin language' and that a priest cannot exclude using the Ordinary form. The faithful may attend these Masses if they ask to be admitted.

In a parish, where there is a 'stable group of the faithful who adhere to the earlier liturgical tradition' they may make a request of the parish priest for celebrations of the Extraordinary form of Mass. The Norms encourage the pastor to willingly accept their requests and to ensure that their welfare harmonises with the ordinary pastoral care of the parish — avoiding discord. At Masses using the Extraordinary form the readings may be given in the vernacular using an approved translation. Where the good of souls would seem to require it a pastor may give permission for the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, Penance and the Anointing of the Sick using the Extraordinary form; in a similar way a bishop may celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The *Motu Proprio* comes into effect on 14 September 2007, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. The full Latin text of the document can be found on the Vatican website. The text, together with an unofficial translation, has been published by Catholic Truth Society.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said:

'On behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales I welcome the Holy Father's call for unity within the Church and especially towards those who are very attached to celebrating the Mass according to the Missal of 1962.

'We are confident that the provisions already made throughout England and Wales under the indult granted back in 1971 go a significant way towards meeting the requirements of the new Norms. "I am confident that the Bishops of England and Wales are well placed to implement this timely Letter and the Norms which clarify the universal discipline of the Church.'

**T**he Council had said that triumphalism should be given up — and was thinking of the baroque, of all these great cultures of the Church. People said: Let us begin in a new and modern way. But another triumphalism had developed, that of thought: we now do things, we have found our way, and on this path we will find the new world.

Yet, the humility of the Cross, of the Crucified One, excludes this same triumphalism. We must renounce the triumphalism which holds that the great Church of the future is now truly being born. Christ's Church is always humble and in this very way is great and joyful.

It seems to me very important that our eyes are now open and can see all that is positive which developed in the period subsequent to the Council: in the renewal of the liturgy, in the Synods, the Roman Synods, the universal Synods, the diocesan synods, the parish structures, in collaboration, in the new responsibility of lay people, in the great intercultural and intercontinental co-responsibility, in a new experience of the Church's catholicity, of the unanimity that grows in humility and yet is the true hope of the world.

Benedict XVI  
response in question-and-answer  
session with priests from the dioceses of Belluno-Feltre and Treviso,  
24 July 2007

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## Coming Events

### Chant and Pray

*an afternoon of Gregorian Chant in Latin and English*  
Society of St Gregory  
Westminster Cathedral  
2–6pm, 20 October 2007  
[www.ssg.org.uk](http://www.ssg.org.uk)

### Links from Page 1

- *Motu Proprio*  
[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/motu\\_proprio/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_motu\\_proprio\\_20070707\\_summorum-pontificum\\_lt.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/motu_proprio/documents/hf_ben-xvi_motu_proprio_20070707_summorum-pontificum_lt.html)
- *Letter to Bishops*  
[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/letters/2007/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_let\\_20070707\\_lettera-vescovi\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/letters/2007/documents/hf_ben-xvi_let_20070707_lettera-vescovi_en.html)
- *Catholic Truth Society*  
[www.cts-online.org.uk](http://www.cts-online.org.uk)
- *CBCEW Press Release*  
[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/cn/07/070707a.htm](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/cn/07/070707a.htm)

**I**n life today, often noisy and dispersive, it is more important than ever to recover the capacity for inner silence and recollection. Eucharistic adoration permits this not only centred on the "I" but more so in the company of that "You" full of love who is Jesus Christ, "the God who is near to us".

Benedict XVI  
Angelus on Corpus Christi

**I**n order that the Christian people may more certainly derive an abundance of graces from the sacred liturgy, holy Mother Church desires to undertake with great care a general restoration of the liturgy itself. For the liturgy is made up of immutable elements divinely instituted, and of elements subject to change. These not only may but ought to be changed with the passage of time if they have suffered from the intrusion of anything out of harmony with the inner nature of the liturgy or have become unsuited to it.

In this restoration, both texts and rites should be drawn up so that they express more clearly the holy things which they signify; the Christian people, so far as possible, should be enabled to understand them with ease and to take part in them fully, actively, and as befits a community.

Sacrosanctum Concilium 21

## Synod of Bishops

The preparatory document (*Lineamenta*) for the next Synod of Bishops in 2008 has been released. The subject of the Synod is *The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church*. The document is in 3 sections: Revelation: the Word of God and the Church; The Word of God in the Life of the Church; The Word of God in the Mission of the Church. Each section concludes with a series of questions and responses are invited from Bishops' Conferences. The response will form the basis of the working document (*Instrumentum Laboris*) of the Synod.

- [www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/index.htm)
- [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Synod/](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Synod/)

## Year of St Paul

On the feast of St Peter and St Paul this year Pope Benedict proclaimed a Year of St Paul from June 2008 – June 2009 to mark the 2000th anniversary of St Paul's birth. It is reckoned that St Paul was born between 6 – 10 A.D.

To prepare for the year the Liturgy Office has begun a series of leaflets on the writing of St Paul. Each leaflet takes one or two of the Apostle's epistles as they occur in the Sunday Lectionary and provides an introduction to the text. They are intended for both for those who proclaim and hear the word.

- [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Scripture/Paul.htm](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Scripture/Paul.htm)

## Canadian Lectionary

The Holy See has given *recognitio* to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for the publication of the *Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities*. It will be based on the *New Revised Standard Version* of Scripture which has been reviewed in the light of principles agreed by the Congregation and the Canadian bishops in 2003.

- [www.cccb.ca/site/content/view/2510/1214/lang.eng](http://www.cccb.ca/site/content/view/2510/1214/lang.eng)

## Australian

### General Instruction

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference received in July *recognitio* for the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* for Australia.

- [www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/liturgy/200707031933.htm](http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/liturgy/200707031933.htm)

### EnVision

The Georgetown Center for Liturgy in Washington, D.C. has set up a website: *EnVision-Church: Art, Architecture, Liturgy, and Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition* as a resource for all interested in church buildings. Through images and articles it includes material that is of interest to those who enhance the liturgical environment and to those building churches as well as liturgical and catechetical resources.

- [www3.georgetown.edu/centers/liturgy/envisionchurch/](http://www3.georgetown.edu/centers/liturgy/envisionchurch/)

### Dr John Page

The former Executive Secretary of ICEL, Dr John Page, was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal at parish Sunday Mass, Holy Trinity, Washington, D.C. by Rt Revd Donald Trautman, chair of the US Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy. He was assisted by Mgr Anthony Sherman, incoming Director of the Secretariat of the BCL. Dr Page served ICEL from 1972 – 2002.

### Resources for Formation

#### Powerful Points

The Brisbane Liturgical Commission has prepared a CD-Rom of PowerPoint presentations for use with lay liturgical ministers. In addition to 2 Introductory sessions on liturgical ministry, 2 further sessions are provided for 9 different ministries.

- [www.litcom.net.au/publications/prepmaterials/powerfulpoints.php](http://www.litcom.net.au/publications/prepmaterials/powerfulpoints.php)

### Days of Reflection and Prayer

The Diocese of Westminster Liturgy Commission has published on its website a series of

resources to assist parishes in running their own reflection days for liturgical ministers.

- [www.rcdow.org.uk/liturgy](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/liturgy)

### Sounds of Many Waters

Clifton Cathedral is running a year long programme of events exploring the need to care for the environment through a variety of events and activities.

- [www.soundofmanywaters.org](http://www.soundofmanywaters.org)

### The Creed & Creation

A booklet endorsed for the London Church Leaders Group explores ways of running greener church buildings. Church House Publishing have also issued a booklet *How many Lightbulbs does it take to change a Christian?* which looks at what both individuals, churches and communities can do.

- [www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/default.asp?library\\_ref=4&content\\_ref=1245](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/default.asp?library_ref=4&content_ref=1245)

### Age to Age

A new recording from CJM music *Age to Age* marks the tenth anniversary of Jo Boyce and Mike Stanley working together. On the recording they offer a selection of well-loved Catholic hymns from the plainchant *Salve Regina* through *Sweet Heart of Jesus* to compositions of their own which are sung to contemporary arrangements.

- <http://www.agetoage.info/>

### Anaphora

The Society of Liturgical Study has launched a journal *Anaphora*. It is intended that it will publish articles of a scholarly nature on all aspects of Christian Liturgy and worship and that it will appeal to researchers, academics and students of liturgy, members of denominational liturgical committees, and those with an informed interest.

- <http://www.studyofliturgy.org.uk/page4.html>

### Additions to the Universal Calendar

The Congregation for Divine Worship has issued norms on the inclusion of Saints in the

# Visual Liturgy Live

Since the Church of England introduced its new prayer book *Common Worship* in 2000, most parishes have been producing service booklets for local use. For some years now I have been collecting examples of these service booklets, revelling in the diversity of approach, layout, and design; and occasionally wincing at a particularly clumsy *faux pas* or typo. For many parishes, preparing service books has been a steep learning curve and a mixed blessing. Not only is there a plethora of presidential and congregational choice in the liturgy, but the possibilities for mistakes, liturgical and typographical, are equally multiplied.

Many parishes have caught the vision of the computer age, and turned to a software package called Visual Liturgy (VL) which was released at the same time as *Common Worship*. VL is designed to help plan services and acts of worship, by giving a template and the most appropriate liturgical choices for each service. The templates are date and lectionary related, and give seasonal liturgy for complete services of Holy Communion, Sunday Morning and Evening Prayer, Daily Prayer, and the occasional offices. The package includes all the liturgy

authorised and commended since November 2000, and templates for each day, week and season of the year. In theory, service books can be put together with texts free of glitches!

The task of liturgical formation is not only aided by the choices suggested by the templates. Other helpful inclusions in the package include a large hymn and song database of over 5,000, and all commended material for the Church of England. The system can be accessed by several licensed users in one parish, and is also linked via the web to Church House Publishing for updates, fixes, new resources and web support. VL Live costs £125 including the first year's subscription. This provides bi-monthly uploads, and further resources added year by year, chosen by consultation with the users.

The latest version of Visual Liturgy Live was published in May 2007. Windows® 2000 or XP, a CD ROM drive, and an internet connection are needed to make use of the interactive features. For more information visit [www.visualliturgylive.net](http://www.visualliturgylive.net)

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Member of the Church of England  
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Universal Calendar. Proposals would come from the Bishops' Conference where the saint was born, loved or died but the Congregation would also seek the views of at least 3 other Bishops' Conferences around the world. Special consideration would be given to under-represented categories such as lay people, married couples or parents. The norms recommend that there is a 10 year gap after canonisation to see that the cult is ongoing and universal.

## Choral Singing

Following a concert by Alpine choirs for the Pope while he was on holiday Benedict XVI said:

'Training in singing, in singing in choir, is not only an exercise of the external hearing and voice; it is also an education of interior hearing, the hearing of the heart, an exercise and a education in life and

peace. Singing together in choir and with other choirs together, demands attention to the other, attention to the composer, attention to the conductor, attention to this totality that we call music and culture. And in this way singing in choir is a training in life, a training in peace, a walking together.'

## Active Participation

Cardinal Bertone, Secretary of State sent a message on behalf of the Holy Father to the 58th National Liturgical Week in Italy. In the message he wrote: 'To live as a Christian, we must harmonize personal faithfulness to Christ with 'citizenship,' with a commitment to being present in the world as his witnesses. ...

'How to carry out that mission in today's society with an evangelical faithfulness celebrated in the liturgy and lived in day-to-day existence.'

'For every Christian generation, the Eucharist is the indispensable nutriment that sustains it while traversing the desert of this world, parched by ideological and economic systems that do not promote life, but rather degrade it; a world where the logic of power and possession dominates rather than that of service and love; a world where the culture of violence and death often triumph.

'An active participation in the celebration of the liturgy makes the Christian more aware of his responsible vocation to be a sign and witness of a radically new way of acting in the world.

## Jennie Coffey

Since August Mrs Jennie Coffey has been working as Administrator for the Liturgy Office from Monday – Wednesday. She previously worked as a receptionist at the Bishops' Conference.

**F**or any bishop, celebrating liturgies in the parishes of his diocese can be an uplifting, challenging, frustrating, terrifying experience; and sometimes all four at once!! I believe most people know instinctively when a liturgy is good. It is not in essence a question of mood or performance; it is something much more intangible. It is the sense that the assembly has praised God.

Bishop Kevin Manning  
In *Ad Libitum* newsletter  
of Australian National  
Liturgy Council  
June 2007

**T**he faithful need to be reminded that there can be no *actuosa participatio in the sacred mysteries without an accompanying effort to participate actively in the life of the Church as a whole, including a missionary commitment to bring Christ's love into the life of society.*

Benedict XVI  
*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 55

## 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.

### September 2007 reviews

- Sounding Glory
- They shall not grow old
- The Song of the Assembly
- Faith Days! For Whole-Community Faith Formation
- Forming Ministers for Whole-Community Faith Formation
- Sunday Mass: Our role and why it matters
- Age to Age
- Holy Gifts
- Hymns and Anthems for the Church Year

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

## Magazine Subscription Service

The Liturgy Office offers an annual subscription service to English-speaking liturgical journals from around the world for subscribers from UK. Details of the journals and prices for 2008 are now available on the website.

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

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# The Word of God in the Life of the Church

*An extract from the Lineamenta for the next Synod of Bishops (see page 2)*

## The Church is Nourished on the Word in Various Ways

20. "All preaching in the Church must be nourished and regulated by Sacred Scripture." St. Paul's prayerful desire, "that the Word of God might spread and triumph" (2 Thess 3:1), is being fulfilled and expressed in many ways, in a variety of places in the life of the Church. This process calls for an attentive faith, apostolic dedication and a sound pastoral care which is ongoing, creative and capable of enrichment from shared experiences. A present-day necessity, recommended to every community in the Church, is a pastoral life based on the Bible, or better, one with the Bible as its ongoing inspiration.

From the vantage point of unity and interaction, the Church knows and fully upholds the dynamic nature involved in encountering the Word of God as the source of all the Church's pastoral activity. The Word which is proclaimed and listened to, seeks to become the Word celebrated in the Liturgy and the Church's sacramental life. In this way, the Word of God becomes the basis of the Church's life through her experience of communion, charity and mission.

## In the Liturgy and Prayer

21. "Let the intimate connection between words and rites be apparent in the liturgy." The Church has learned to discover and welcome God who speaks through liturgical prayer—as compared to personal and communal prayer—in a unique manner. Indeed, Sacred Scripture is a liturgical and prophetic reality in which the Holy Spirit proclaims and bears witness, beyond what is attested in written form, to the actual event of Christ's life in this world. Acknowledging that liturgical celebrations spread a knowledge and love of Sacred Scripture, the Church's ongoing task is to put into practise the letter and spirit of the Second Vatican Council on the use of the Word in the Liturgy. This requires a vibrant process of renewal, both qualitative and quantitative, which is a call to the faithful to reflect in common on the Council's various directives.

In this regard, it is essential to keep in mind that "Christ is present in his Word, since it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church." Therefore, "Sacred Scripture is of the greatest importance in the celebration of the Liturgy." It follows, then, that special attention needs to be given to every moment of encounter with the Word during liturgical actions, namely, the Eucharist (Sunday), the sacraments, the preaching

of homilies, the seasons of the liturgical year, the Liturgy of the Hours, sacramentals, various forms of popular piety and mystagogical catechesis.

The primary position is reserved for the Eucharist, as the intrinsically one "table of both God's Word and Christ's Body," particularly that celebrated on the Lord's Day: "It [the Mass] is the privileged place where communion is ceaselessly proclaimed and nurtured." For many Christians, Sunday Mass, one of the principal moments for encountering the Word of God, remains today the only point of contact with the Word. Consequently, this should give rise to a true pastoral zeal to celebrate and to authentically and joyously live the encounter with the Word during the Sunday Eucharist.

Concretely speaking, maximum care should be given to the Liturgy of the Word celebrated during not only the Eucharist but also the other sacraments. This will be seen in proclaiming the texts in a clear, audible manner. It is also reflected in homilies, where the Word resounds in a clear and encouraging manner and the events of life and history can be interpreted in the light of faith. All this is done with the support of the prayers of the faithful, which themselves can be their response of praise, thanks and petition to God who speaks there. In this regard, the *Ordo Lectionum Missæ* deserves special attention, as too, the praying of the Divine Office.

Undeniably, the Church today needs to consider how her pastoral activity can make these most important moments of encountering the Word of God more accessible to the faithful.

## Questions

*What is the faithful's approach to Sacred Scripture in liturgical and personal prayer?*

*What is their understanding of the relationship between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist?*

*Between the Word celebrated in the Eucharist and the everyday life of the Christian?*

*Does the Word of God have a genuine resonance in homilies? What needs to be done?*

*Is a listening to the Word of God incorporated in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?*

*Does the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours include a listening to and dialogue with the Word of God? Does this practise extend to lay people?*

*Do the People of God have sufficient access to the Bible?*