

Spirit of the Season

Summer 2003

Liturgical Year B

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Free Spirit



It can happen that holiday-makers who have paid a lot of money for a special place in the sun, find, when they return that the weather at home has been 'perfect'.

Sunrise and sunset and moonlight are gifts freely given and their touch on

everyday and familiar things can help us to see them in a new light.

For the People of God it is the Holy Spirit who brings the power to find joy again and to become so energised that they want to make known the wonder of God to all the world.

The Spirit comes
in tongues of
flame,
With love and
wisdom burning bright,
The wind, the fountain and
the fire
Combine in this great feast
of light. *Stanbrook Abbey*



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Focusing on a Feast Body and Blood of Christ (Thursday 19 June)

Our liturgical preparation for major feasts can provide an opportunity to develop our liturgical best practice.

In the General Instruction (78) it refers to the Eucharistic prayer as the centre and summit of entire celebration. This can seem a particular challenge for Masses with children but these ideas may help.

There are 3 Eucharistic prayers for Masses with Children. In the introduction to the prayers it states: "The eucharistic prayer which seems best suited to the needs of the children should be chosen from among the three prayers: either the first for its greater simplicity, for the second for its greater participation, or the third for the (seasonal) variations it affords".

The prayers can be found in some altar missal or are available from McCrimmons in a separate booklet.

Something for you to do:

- Read and pray the text. The best way to understand what the Eucharistic prayer is about is to look at the text itself. See what phrases speak to you; are there any you might use in your own prayer. Can you discern a shape or pattern to the prayer?
- Together with the priest identify which Eucharistic prayer is best suited to the needs of the children.

Something for the children to do:

- In the daily collective acts of worship seek opportunities for using the sung acclamations in the prayer.
- As with any celebration of Mass the option always exists to introduce the Eucharistic prayer with special reasons for thanksgiving. In the week before Mass identify with the children what we give thanks for.



Singing the Eucharistic Prayer

Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children 2 & 3 along with the Holy, holy and the Amen provide additional acclamations for singing. The acclamations:

- Glory to God in the highest.
- Jesus has given his life for us
- We praise you, we bless you, we thank you.

increase the participation of the children in the prayer but also show the structure of the prayer as well.

Choose musical setting that are singable and will be durable. This is ritual music. Through consistent use over time it should feel wholly natural to sing acclamations and strange if we do not. More than with any other part of the Mass singing during the Eucharistic Prayer needs time and preparation. It also needs close collaboration with the priest so that all are familiar with the rhythm of the prayer.

Over the years there have been many good settings of these acclamations. Ones to look at include: Christopher Walker *Calling the Children*; Bernadette Farrell *Music for the Mass II*, Peter McGrail, Paul Inwood *Children at Heart*.

The Prayer Space in Summer

In Summer, go with the flow. Following Pentecost the liturgical calendar names the weeks "Ordinary Time" i.e.

'numbered' time, Ordinary comes from ordinal, it does not here mean plain or common. The number of weeks of Ordinary Time after Pentecost and the end of the school year can vary from year to year depending on the date of Easter in any particular year.

- With Lent, a distant memory, and Easter now concluded, it is time to recreate the prayer space. Simpler after the exuberance of Easter.
- Go green.



These early days of Ordinary Time have lots of bursting out feasts that need to be celebrated.

Pentecost	Sunday 8 June
Trinity Sunday	Sunday 15 June
Body & Blood of Christ	Thursday 19 June
Birth of John the Baptist	Tuesday 24 June
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Friday 27 June
Ss Peter & Paul	Sunday 29 June

And some of you, depending on your Key Stage or class will have end-of-school-year activities.

- In school, the priority will be the Body and Blood of Christ, a holyday of obligation which always falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.
- For the other feasts, unless one is the dedication of your school, why not have a feast of the week focus in the prayer space: announcing the feast and perhaps an image and the class bible open at an appropriate text for the day. You will also want to make them the focus for the collective act of worship on the days themselves.



Looking back, looking forward...

The end of the year is often a time for looking back; reflecting on what has happened in the last school year.

Now is the time to look over the school's liturgical celebrations. You may wish to do this individually, with the children or with other members of staff.

- What do you remember?
- What was good?
- What were the highlights?

Often the good celebrations we remember are those where there was full, conscious and active participation. This participation (see SoS Winter 03) is one of the best yard sticks for evaluating liturgy.

- What didn't work?
- What could be improved?

Sometimes it will be something we have carefully prepared other times it will be the unexpected disaster. We may now be able to look back with a smile but why has it stuck in our memory and what have we learnt that could improve our celebration in the future?

Now let's prepare next year!

Christ is always present in his Church —in the person of his minister.

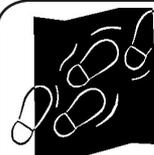
When the priest presides at Mass he presides as Christ. When the reader reads it is Christ whose voice we hear. In our liturgy Christ is present in his ministers. The challenge is for each of us to allow the same Christ to live in us in our every moment.

In our Baptism we received our mission: to share in the ministry of Christ as prophet, priest and king. We are called to seek out God's love in every event, every person; we are called to offer prayer and praise; we are called to lead one another into the ways of love and service.



You are created by God to be like God.

God's Story 2 p. 87



Action – Invite an older child or adult who has been baptised at Easter to share with you what their hopes are for their mission as a Christian. (*cf. HIA Energy*)

O Blessed Jesus, Friend and Brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Richard of Chichester

An opportunity for Word Art

Go and see *Here I Am* Key Words for this topic:

**Energy,
Special
Places**



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