

For all those involved in a Ministry in the Church — 1 Questions and Answers



What's this I hear about a new Missal?

It's not a new Missal, but a new translation of the Missal we have now.

Why do we need a new translation?

Because the first one was done in a bit of a hurry, and some corners were cut. Looking back, we can now see that we need to stick more closely to the Latin original text than we have done so far.

Does that mean that our present Mass has been wrong?

No, not at all. It's a bit like giving your car a good service. The Church now wants us to change the oil and fine-tune the performance. We're not buying a new car. The Mass will sound different, but it will still be the same Mass.

But I'm a welcomer, not a reader. Why should this affect me?

Because everyone who carries out a ministry in the church is also a member of the whole assembly. We will all be affected by new responses and other changes in texts, because we all join together in the celebration. Every ministry needs to be involved in helping us to move forward.

Will I need to change anything I do?

Probably not a great deal. However, the new Missal gives us an opportunity to look at everything we do, and how we do it. Think of it like having the tracking of the wheels on your car checked: not obvious to the naked eye, but if you don't do it performance may be affected.

So what else do I need to know?

There will be opportunities to explore the new texts and also the way we celebrate. We'd love you to be part of this. Meanwhile, below there are some suggestions of places you could look for more information.



Things to think about

- What sort of preparation do you undertake for your ministry?
- Would you feel uncomfortable if someone suggested a different way of doing things, or would you welcome the opportunity to improve your service to the community?
- How does it feel to be involved in a ministry that is part of a network of ministries? What are the implications of this?

'Thought for the Day'

All ministers are part of a 'network' of ministries.

Everyone's contribution is valuable – we would be worse off without it.

This also means that everyone's contribution cannot be done in isolation – we all need to work together!

Actually there's really only one minister: Jesus Christ. In our different ways, we all share in his ministry. That's part of what it means to be a member of 'the Body of Christ'.

Useful resources

Our national Liturgy Office website:

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

PDF of the revised Order of Mass:

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Missal/Text

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