

Supplementary Reading

1 PETER 2:4-10

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

95 In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people whom God has made his own, a royal priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the spotless Victim not only through the hands of the priest but also together with him, and so that they may learn to offer themselves. They should, moreover, endeavour to make this clear by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration. Thus they are to shun any appearance of individualism or division, keeping before their eyes that they have only one Father in heaven and accordingly are all brothers and sisters to each other.

46 The rites preceding the Liturgy of the Word... have the character of a beginning, introduction and preparation. Their purpose is

In spirit and in truth

to ensure that the faithful, who come together as one, establish communion and dispose themselves to listen properly to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

CELEBRATING THE MASS

- 22 Christ is always present in his Church, particularly in its liturgical celebrations. In the celebration of Mass, which is a memorial of the Sacrifice of the cross, Christ is really present first of all in the assembly itself: 'When two or three come together in my name, there I am in their midst (Mt 18:20).
- 23 The liturgical assembly is never a random group of individuals but the gathering of God's people to exercise its royal priesthood in the sacrifice of praise. Everything in the celebration is organised to encourage and foster an awareness of this assembly's common dignity and purpose, mutual interdependence, and connectedness with the wider Church.

Further Reading

Understanding the Revised Mass Texts
(Paul Turner, LTP/
McCrimmons, 2011)

- Pages 7–16: The Introductory Rites
- Luke 1:46-47 Mary's song praising God with her whole being: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour'
- You may also like to read Luke , chapters 1 & 2 Infancy narratives: How is God's glory echoed here?

Bibliography

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium

Liturgiam Authenticam
on the use of Vernacular Languages in the Publication of the Books of the Roman Liturgy (5th Instruction for the Right Implementation of SC)

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)
CTS London, 2005

Celebrating the Mass
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CTS: London 2005)