

## Liturgical Year

These texts are taken from the Easter Triduum.

- Ubi Caritas  
*Where charity and love are found*
- Pange, lingua gloriosi  
*Hail our Saviour's glorious body*
- Crux fidelis  
*Faithful cross*
- We worship you, Lord

## Liturgical Rites

Apart from the first two titles these are all types of texts rather than individual texts.

- Veni Creator Spiritus  
*Come, O Creator Spirit blest*
- Litany of Saints
- Song of Farewell
- Acclamation for Baptised
- A Sprinkling Song
- Song of Blessing
- Dismissal for Catechumens

## Sequences

The Sequences are remnants of the medieval liturgy. The first two are obligatory, the latter two optional.

- Victimae paschali laudes - Easter Sunday  
*Christians, to the Paschal Victim*
- Veni Sancte Spiritus – Pentecost  
*Holy Spirit, Lord of light*
- Lauda Sion Salvatorem - The Body and Blood of Christ  
*Sing forth, O Zion, sweetly sing*
- Stabat Mater - Our Lady of Sorrows  
*At the cross her station keeping*

## Other texts

- Te Deum

## Information & Comments

More information can be found on the Liturgy Office website:  
[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/AYWL](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/AYWL)

Please send comments to: Martin Foster, Liturgy Office, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PL • 020 7901 4851 • [fosterm@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:fosterm@cbcew.org.uk)

## Liturgy Office

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

# Core Music Repertoire

## *draft list*

The liturgical books contain many texts which are intended to be sung. Many parishes have developed a repertoire to sing the Ordinary of the Mass – Gloria, Gospel Acclamation etc. as well as settings of the psalms for the Liturgy of the Word. This leaflet lists other texts taken from the liturgy which should form the core of a parish's music repertoire.

Many of the texts, such as the *Magnificat* and the *Beatitudes*, will be familiar. They are key passages from scripture and our tradition. These are core texts to be sung on people's lips and prayed in their hearts.

There are possibly 4 distinct types of text.

- Texts, such as the *Easter Sequence*, that occur only once in the liturgical year but when they do occur they are meant to be sung.
- Texts, such as the *Magnificat*, that as well as being a core text for a particular liturgy – Evening Prayer, can be sung on many occasions.
- Elements from the liturgy, such as the Song of Farewell at Funerals, where there is not just one text but it is important that something is sung at this point.
- Texts that are core to the Gospel but are not found in the rites arranged for singing. The *Beatitudes* is the sole example in this list.

This draft list is intended to be comprehensive. A revised list may give priority to some texts over others – for example, the *Benedictus* and the *Sequence for the Body and Blood of Christ* (which is optional). It is intended for parish musicians so that they can review their parish's repertoire to see how much they can sing the liturgy. It is also intended for composers as encouragement to provide settings of these core texts. It is also an opportunity for musicians and composers to reflect on how music best serves the liturgy.

The list was developed as part of the Liturgy Office's work on the liturgical resources for Westminster diocese *At Your Word Lord* programme ([www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/AYWL](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/AYWL)). The website includes musical suggestions and further notes for some of the items.

Comments are welcome on inclusions and omissions, suggestions for repertoire, and evaluation of the relative priority of texts.

## Repertoire

### Gospel

The Gospel Canticles are integral to the Liturgy of the Hours. The themes of the Magnificat and the Beatitudes are often echoed in the Sunday Lectionary. The Benedictus can be seen as a core text for the Season of Advent.

- Benedictus (Luke 1: 68-79)  
*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!*
- Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55)  
*My soul glorifies the Lord*
- Nunc dimittis (Luke 2: 29-32)  
*At last, all-powerful Master*
- Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-12 & Luke 6: 20-26)  
*How happy are the poor in spirit*

### Old Testament

The Exodus canticle is one of the key sung text in the Easter Vigil. The two Daniel canticles come from Sunday Morning Prayer and would form effective Entrance songs.

- Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18  
*I will sing to the Lord*
- Isaiah 12:2-6  
*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*
- Daniel 3: 52-57  
*You are blest, Lord God of our Fathers*
- Daniel 3:57-88  
*O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord*

### New Testament

These texts are all used in Evening Prayer. The canticle from Philippians is familiar from the Sunday Lectionary. The canticles from Revelation would make suitable Entrance songs for the Easter Season.

- Ephesians 1:3-10  
*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*
- Colossians 1:12-20  
*Let us give thanks to the Father*
- Philippians 2:6-11  
*Though he was in the form of God*
- 1 Timothy 3:16  
*O praise the Lord, all you nations!*
- 1 Peter 2:21-24  
*Christ suffered for you*

- Revelation 4:11;5:9,10,12  
*Worthy are you, our Lord and God*
- Revelation 11:17-18;12:10b-12a  
*We give you thanks, Lord God Almighty*
- Revelation 15:3-4  
*Great and wonderful are your deeds*
- Revelation 19:1-2, 5-7  
*Salvation and glory and power belong to our God*

### Psalms

The psalms are the core sung texts of the liturgy: the Responsorial Psalm and the Liturgy of the Hours. They also provide the majority of texts for the antiphons (such as Entrance and Communion) at Mass and other rites. The following texts are suggested for their suitability through out the liturgy; many are, of course, common psalms from the Lectionary

- Psalm 22 (23)  
*The Lord is my shepherd*
- Psalm 26 (27)  
*The Lord is my light and my help.*
- Psalm 33 (34)  
*I will bless the Lord at all times*
- Psalm 50 (51)  
*Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness*
- Psalm 62 (63)  
*O God, you are my God, for you I long*
- Psalm 94 (95)  
*Come ring out your joy to the Lord*
- Psalm 97 (98)  
*Sing a new song to the Lord*
- Psalm 102 (103)  
*My soul give thanks to the Lord*
- Psalm 103 (104)  
*Bless the Lord, my soul*
- Psalm 115 (116)  
*How can I repay the Lord*
- Psalm 117 (118)  
*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good*
- Psalm 135 (136)  
*O give thanks to the Lord for he is good*
- Psalm 147  
*O praise the Lord, Jerusalem*