

Weekday Mass

Developing the particular character of weekday celebration

Weekday celebrations of Mass are distinguished from Sunday celebrations by their using a separate Lectionary and having a slightly simpler form, i.e. the usual absence of Gloria and Profession of Faith. Frequently the weekday congregation will be different in size and make up to the Sunday congregation. Their numbers may be smaller and their attendance more frequent. Often the ability of the weekday congregation to spend time in silent prayer and reflection is greater, for example, after readings, after the Homily and after Communion.

- In the Lectionary for weekdays, readings are provided for each day of every week throughout the entire year; as a result, these readings are for the most part to be used on the days to which they are assigned, unless a Solemnity, Feast, or memorial occurs having proper New Testament readings, in which mention is, in fact, made of the Saint being celebrated.
- Musical resources at weekday celebrations will often be fewer. However, the norms regarding music in the Mass should be respected. The principal acclamations should be sung wherever possible.

In planning the celebration of Mass, the priest, should pay attention to the common spiritual good of the People of God, rather than his own inclinations. He should also remember that choices are to be made in consultation with those who perform some part in the celebration, including the faithful in regard to the parts that more directly belong to them.

CTM, 134, GIRM 352

Some Questions

- Does the parish have a distinctive musical repertoire for weekday, especial ferial, celebrations – marking the different character of the day, and the perhaps different musical resources available?
- Are the readings of the day regularly given priority over the readings from the Common of Saints? (The Lectionary always indicates when readings for saints are Proper)

Further References

General Instruction of the Roman Missal
40, 352–385, 363

Lectionary for Mass: Introduction
69–71, 78–81

Practical Points

- Good quality, simple *a capella* settings of the acclamations are available for congregations without instrumentalists
- Use of the Common Psalms will assist in the singing of the Responsorial Psalm
- Congregations will sing well without a cantor, if there is someone ready to ‘start them off’
- The Missal offers a wide range of texts for Various Needs and Occasions and Votive Masses that might be used judiciously on ferial days, to vary the focus of daily celebration

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Questions for Groups

1. What is good about current practice?
What concerns do you have?

4. Who is most directly involved in these matters, e.g. liturgical ministers?
What formation/information is necessary to engage them in the renewal of current practice?

2. In what ways does the documentation affirm or challenge your current practice?

5. How will the assembly be engaged in the process?
What, in particular, needs addressing at Sunday and/or weekday celebrations?

3. Prioritise the issues you have identified.

6. How will you know whether the formation has worked?