

Sunday

Be more attentive to Sunday Mass as the celebration which brings together the entire parish community,

By apostolic tradition, the Church gathers on the Lord's Day to celebrate the Lord's Supper. This Sunday Eucharist, at which the entire local community assembles and in which all play their proper parts, is the primary manifestation of the local Church and, as such, the most important and normative form of Eucharistic celebration. It should be in every sense inclusive and not be needlessly multiplied. Although more than one mass will often be celebrated in a parish on a Sunday a balance needs to be kept between what is convenient, and what helps the Church to become an authentic community of faith and mission and celebrate the Liturgy fully, richly and reverently.

Great importance should therefore be attached to the use of singing in the celebration of the Mass. Every care should be taken that singing by the ministers and the people is not absent in celebrations that occur on Sundays and on holy days of obligation.

MANE NOBISCUM, DOMINE 23, CTM 21, GIRM 40

Some Questions

- Apart from Mass in what other ways does the community mark Sunday?
- Is there an opportunity to review the balance between convenience and full and reverent celebration?
- What possibility is there in occasionally bringing the whole parish community together for Mass on a Sunday?

Further References

General Instruction of the Roman Missal
40, 66, 113, 115, 119, 354

Celebrating the Mass
21, 130–132

Dies Domini
(On keeping the Lord's Day Holy)

Spiritus et Sponsa 9

Mane Nobiscum, Domine 23

Redemptionis Sacramentum
57, 114

Practical Points

- Preparing the liturgical seasons so that connections can be made from Sunday to Sunday.
 - In Ordinary Time the Gospels are divided into sections spread over a number of weeks.
- Print references to the readings (and next week's Gospel) in the newsletter with encouragement to reflect and prepare.
- Identify a simple setting of the Gospel Acclamation and Acclamations in the Eucharistic Prayer which could be sung at any Sunday Mass
- Ask parish groups to take responsibility for welcoming people or for preparing the Prayers of the Faithful — provide necessary formation.
- Have a regular 'singles lunch'.

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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?