

Spirit of the Season

Summer 2006

Liturgical Year B www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS

Christ in the world

At the end of Mass we are sent forth, in peace, to 'love and serve the Lord'. This is our mission, our task, for, as St Teresa of Avila tells us 'Christ has no hands now but yours'. We are to be Christ to the world; we are to be the instruments of the Gospel values of justice and peace. Our liturgy is a transforming experience. 'We seek the transformation not only of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, but that the same Spirit transforms us also into the Body of Christ. But it does not end here...' *Celebrating the Mass* (CTM) 16

All liturgy is intended to change us, makes us more able, more ready, to go out into the world and live the values of the Gospel. How do we help our pupils – and ourselves – to do this? We need to look at how the school community can engage with the wider community on a local, national and global level and at how we celebrate this in our liturgy. How does our liturgy lead pupils to recognise their responsibility to respond to the needs of those around them – in school, family, friends, on the streets? Consideration needs also to be given to the ways in which the school celebrates or commemorates world or national events. Some of these can be built into liturgy planning for the year – CAFOD Fast Days, Children in Need, Remembrance Sunday, World AIDS Day. Other occasions, like the Tsunami at the end of 2004, demand an immediate and appropriate response, often both practical and liturgical. It is perhaps important on occasions like this that we don't make them merely 'one-off' moments but that we continue to hold those who have suffered in our prayers as they try to return to some kind of normality.

The challenge is great but there is no getting away from it: 'The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist must feed those who celebrate: for their work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.' (CTM 17)

*Go in
peace to
love and
serve the
Lord*

Keep your Church alert in faith to the signs of the times and eager to accept the challenge of the gospel.



Open our hearts to the needs of all humanity, so that sharing their grief and anguish, their joy and hope, we may faithfully bring them the good news of salvation and advance together on the way to your kingdom.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR
VARIOUS NEEDS & OCCASIONS

A cloud of witnesses

Pope John Paul II during his time as Pope was responsible for the canonisation and beatification of a great many Christian men and women. Declaring someone a Blessed (beatification) or a Saint (canonisation) sets them before the Church as a witness to Christ and an example to be revered and also, to some degree, for the Church to seek to emulate.

Until relatively recently one could be forgiven for assuming you could only be a saint if you were white, a priest (or at least a religious) and were born in Europe several centuries ago. Now there is no excuse for having such a limited understanding of where such holiness is to be found in the Church - for the Church recognises saints from all periods of her history, from all parts of the world, and from all sorts of states of life.

What saints are celebrated in your school? And why? Are there other saints that you might celebrate? Perhaps saints associated with your local area? Perhaps the patron saints of the various national and cultural groups the pupils and staff come from?

What we have seen and heard



It is always good to evaluate our worship including our use of technology. [For ideas about evaluating liturgy see SOS Easter & Summer 04]

Over the last year in what contexts have you used technology?

- class
- year group
- key stage
- whole school

How have you used technology this year to enhance liturgy?

What have you learnt?

- What skills or training do you need to develop this over the coming year?
- Are there any budget implications?

What has worked well?

- What could be improved?
- Is there an opportunity to share your responses with other staff?

Have you saved this year's work to use again or modify?

Ask students and staff what worked and what didn't!

Liturgy Bookshelf 6

Ideas from liturgy can sometimes come from anywhere. From images (see **Imaging the Word** SOS Advent 05), from other liturgies.



It is good to build up your own collection of resources, here are some ideas.

The Wild Goose Worship Group of the Iona Community has produced a series of resources for the liturgical year: **Cloth for the Cradle** (Advent & Christmas); **Present on Earth** (Ordinary Time); **Stages on the Way** (Lent, Holy Week and Easter). Each contains prayers, reflections and dramas.

In the last year **Cafod** have relaunched the Worship section of their website [www.cafod.org.uk/resources/worship] with a wide range of resources, ideas and guidance.

It also helps to keep up to date with ideas through magazines. The Liturgy Office produces a **Liturgy Newsletter** 4 times a year with news about liturgy in England and Wales. **Accord** is the newsletter of the National Network of Pastoral Musicians which lists music and liturgy events across the country. **Music and Liturgy** is the magazine of the Society of St Gregory a national organisation which runs an annual summer school. Details on SOS website.

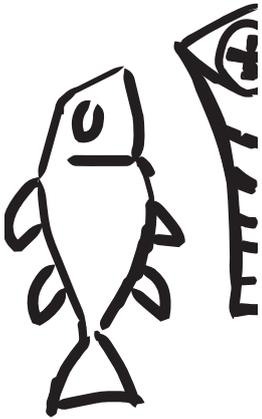
The Liturgy Office also runs an annual Magazine Subscription service for magazines from Australia and US. See website for details.

Something which has existed since the beginning, which we we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have watched and touched with our own hands, the Word of life – this is our theme.

1 John 1:1

Making the Connections Liturgy and Life

Authentic Catholic spirituality is centred on communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that we may go out into the world to live that mystery, refreshed and restored as agents of God's love



For Catholics the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

That 'the People of God' will be able to make adequate meaningful connection between everyday life and participation in the Eucharist cannot be simply assumed.

The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist must feed those who celebrate: for their work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.

CTM 1, 12, 17

Some Questions

- Where are there connections between the pastoral activity of the school and Sunday Mass?
- How might connections be made that are neither token nor detrimental to the structure of Sunday Mass?
- What connections are made between sacramental preparation and the social agenda of the church?

Further References

General Instruction of the Roman Missal
16, 65, 69-71

Celebrating the Mass
1-17, 167-169, 171-173, 217-219

Spiritus et Sponsa
6, 8, 12

Mane nobiscum, Domine
24-28

Practical Points

- Start a scripture reflection group looking at next Sunday's readings.
- Link school fundraising activities to liturgy.
- Make opportunities as a staff to link liturgy and life.
- At the end of the year reflect on whole school liturgies and class liturgy.
- Make informed judgements about the inclusion of thematic material in Mass.
- Thematic material may often be better used in a distinct liturgy or time of prayer.
- Every liturgy should be a celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus – his saving life, death and resurrection.
- Build on links between home, school and parish.

This page looks at some of the opportunities and challenge that arise from the new *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. For each issue there are quotations, ideas and questions. If the subject matter is relevant to your situation you may find helpful to work with the ideas as a group. A simple process can be found on the website [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS].

Excerpts from *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* © 2004, ICEL, Inc. All rights reserved. One of a series of resources produced by the Liturgy Office of the Bishops' Conference to accompany the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Celebrating the Mass* www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources 1025s

**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

Looking at the Mass – Concluding Rite

Introductory Rites
Liturgy of the Word
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Concluding Rite
Announcements
Blessing
Dismissal

After the Communion Rite, the Mass closes with a brief Concluding Rite. Its purpose is to send the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Paschal Mystery and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. They are given a sense of abiding mission, which calls them to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Just as the introductory comments by the priest at the beginning of the celebration may help the assembly to a better appreciation and experience of the mysteries celebrated in the Eucharist, so also the pastoral announcements at the end may help the people make the transition from worship

into renewed Christian witness in society. They should help people become aware of the faith life and pastoral activity of the community and invite participation in the ongoing work of the Church.

The Dismissal sends the members of the congregation forth to praise and bless the Lord in the midst of their daily responsibilities.

For Mass to be truly authentic it must give expression to the common life of the gathered community; the implication being that there is a common life to draw upon. The idea of strangers gathering for Eucharist, and remaining strangers thereafter, does not sit easily with the Gospel message.

Active participation in the Eucharist is a transforming experience. In our prayers, and that of the whole Church, we seek the transformation not only of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, but that the same

Spirit transforms us also into the Body of Christ. But it does not end here...

Authentic Catholic spirituality is centred on communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that we may go out into the world to live that mystery, refreshed and restored as agents of God's love. The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist must feed those who celebrate: for their work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.

Celebrating the Mass 14-17, 217-225

The comments that precede the final blessing are important in Masses with children. Before they are dismissed, they need some repetition and application of what they have heard, but this should be done in a very few words. In particular, this is the appropriate time to express the connection between the liturgy and life.

At least sometimes, depending on the liturgical seasons and different occasions in the children's life, the priest should use more expanded forms of blessing, but at the end should always retain the Trinitarian formula with the sign of the cross. DMC 54

A Time of Thanksgiving for staff



These are ideas for an end of year liturgy for the staff. A chance to reflect on the year shared together. See website for music ideas.

Gather

- Where you gather and how you arrange the space will be important
- A period of silence/reflection
- Invitation to share what has gone well in the last year
- Invitation to acknowledge where there has been hurt, maybe led by one person or as a silent reflection
- Each staff member lights a candle from the school candle

Word

- Before hearing the word pass

the book from one to another

- Sing a song about the word
- Colossians 3:12-17 (*You are God's chosen race*)
- John 21:15-19 (*Feed my sheep*)
- After a period of silence hear the passage again then reflect on the word together and how it relates to their role in the school

Symbolic Action

- Litany of Praise - naming the good things
- Prayers of hope for the future
- Blessing for those leaving or retiring

Send Forth

- Sign of peace
- Presentation of gifts
- Song of rejoicing

Getting in touch

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Spirit of the Season email list

If you would like to know when the new Spirit of the Season is available for downloading from the website got to www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS and use the link to send an email and we will add you to the list.

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ISSN 1748-5088