

A CHANGE IN POSTURE (6 April 2008)

Pentecost Sunday, 11 May, will mark the introduction of the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal throughout Australia. The General Instruction explains how the Mass is to be celebrated as well as outlining the liturgical principles which guide the celebration. The actual text of the new Missal is nearing completion but will not be published until 2010 at the earliest.

Some of the minor changes that will affect the congregation will be covered over the next few weeks through these bulletin notices from the Diocesan Liturgy Office. This is the first stage of introducing the new revised Roman Missal. At this point we are simply changing some of our procedures in line with the revised General Instruction of the new Missal.

The first change is as follows:

At present, after the conclusion of the Preparation of the Gifts, the priest invites us to pray: *"Pray, brethren that our sacrifice may be acceptable...."*. We reply *"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands...."* And then we stand.

From 11 May we are asked to stand before we make our prayer in response to the priest's request.

Standing is traditionally the most appropriate posture for participating in the main prayers of the Mass. Hence we stand for the Opening Prayer, the Prayer over the Gifts, and the Post Communion Prayer. We are being asked to make this change so that we will be standing before we make our prayer response. This posture also signifies our readiness to be part of the Prayer over the Gifts which the priest prays on our behalf.

A CHANGE IN GESTURE (13 April 2008)

The revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states that *"in Australia standing is the most common posture for receiving Holy Communion."* GIRM 160.

We are requested to follow *"the customary manner of reception (i.e. standing) So that Communion may truly be a sign of unity among those who share in the same table of the Lord"* GIRM 160

From Sunday 11 May there will be a change throughout Australia in the way we show reverence before we receive Holy Communion.

The Bishops of Australia, as in other English speaking countries, have decided that the sign of reverence given by the faithful before receiving Holy Communion is to be a bow. The Bishops recognise that, due to age or health, not everyone is able to genuflect. Most can show reverence to the Eucharist by a simple bow and this maintains the dignity of the Communion procession while eliminating the risk of people being tripped in the procession by the person in front of them.

"When approaching to receive Holy Communion the faithful bow in reverence of the Mystery that they are to receive." GIRM 160

This bow should not interrupt the flow of the procession and should not be done while the minister is holding up the host and saying "The Body of Christ." It needs to be done immediately before stepping up to the minister, and may be done while the person in front of you is receiving Holy Communion.

TEXTS (20 April 2008)

The new Missal will not be finally published until at least 2010. In the meantime we may come across some of the new text as music is written for the parts of the Mass using the new translation e.g. the WYD Mass setting to be used in the Sydney Masses with the Pope will be the new text of the Mass. There are already other music settings for the Mass in the new text. It will be easier for us to learn the new words as we sing them over the next few years.

At this stage there is no need to make an immediate change in our parish repertoire of music until more music is available.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will recommend a new Mass setting in the new text over the next year.

LITURGY OF THE WORD (27 April 2008)

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) teaches us the way to celebrate Mass.

One of the changes in the new revised General Instruction is the inclusion of short periods of **silence** during the Liturgy of the Word. The Church is asking us to slow down and meditate on the words of Scripture as they are proclaimed to us each Sunday. The purpose of this slowing down the pace by introducing small periods of silence after the readings and the homily is to allow us to “grasp by the heart” (GIRM 56) the Word of God and to prepare in our hearts a prayerful response.

Readers are asked to pause and allow some moments of meditation after they have proclaimed a reading, before proceeding to the response or acclamation.

It will take some time for us to become accustomed to the silence. Hence it should be introduced gradually and the length of time “adapted to the gathered assembly” GIRM 56 This change is an invitation to each of us to make the Mass more prayerful.

CHANGES (4 May 2008)

Next weekend we begin the changes in procedure as mandated by the General Instruction of the new Roman Missal. (GIRM: General Instruction of the Roman Missal) This is a national introduction of the first changes in preparation for the publication of the Missal in 2010.

You are reminded about 2 particular changes which have been explained in previous bulletins:

1. The change in posture prior to the Prayer over the Gifts. We will stand before we respond with our prayer. “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands...”
2. The sign of reverence before receiving Holy Communion. We are asked to make a bow before stepping forward to receive Holy Communion.

On Pentecost Sunday 11 May we will join the Church throughout Australia in bringing about these small changes in our celebration of the Mass.

CHANGES (11 May 2008)

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1. The change in posture prior to the Prayer over the Gifts. We will stand before we respond with our prayer. "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands..."
2. The sign of reverence before receiving Holy Communion. We are asked to make a bow before stepping forward to receive Holy Communion.

Today, Pentecost Sunday, we will join the Church throughout Australia in bringing about these small changes in our celebration of the Mass.