

Some resources for those who would like to know more

Intercom Pastoral Magazine

- Fr Paddy Jones offers a monthly reflection on aspects of the new translation of the Roman Missal.

Books

- The New Missal – Explaining the changes.
A publication of the Liturgy Centre, by Fr Paddy Jones.
- O Sacred Banquet – revitalising the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist: Irish Bishops Conference (Veritas, 5.99)

Websites

- The Irish Catholic Bishops Conference: www.catholicbishops.ie/ and the Irish National Liturgy Office www.liturgy-ireland.ie/RomanMissalpages.htm (developing)
- The Catholic Bishops Conference of New Zealand Announcing their first steps of implementation in Sept 2010: www.catholic.org.nz/uploads/ckpg/files/NZ_Catechesis_Update_August_2010.pdf
A very readable 22 page introduction to the changes: www.catholic.org.nz/uploads/ckpg/files/MIssal%20Catechesis%20Guide.pdf
- The US Bishops website: www.usccb.org/romanmissal
A copy of the Order of the Mass is at: www.usccb.org/romanmissal/annotated-mass.pdf
- The England & Wales Bishops conference: www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Missal

DVD

- ‘Becoming One Body One Spirit in Christ’,
(Veritas bookshop @ 19.99. Also available online)

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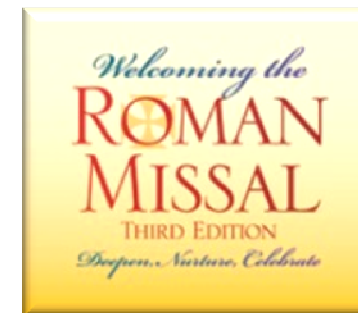
A new translation of the Mass

Why?

Why now?

How?

How will it affect me and my parish?



The Eucharist is the central public prayer of the world wide Catholic church. Since 1963 over 1.1 billion Catholics in the world have been celebrating Eucharist in their own language.

The text every language group across the world uses is translated from a common Latin text. To prevent confusion, this is not translated anew in each country, but *once for each language*. In 1964, an international commission was set up for the English language. It has representatives from the Bishops conferences of Australia, Canada, England and Wales, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, United States of America, as well as the associate member conferences of Antilles, Bangladesh, CEPAC (Episcopal Conference of the Pacific), Gambia-Liberia-Sierra Leone, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia-Singapore, Malawi, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and the Solomons, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe (For more see www.icelweb.org/)

In 1970 it produced its first approved translation of the Roman Missal (which contains the Order of the Mass in English), in 1975 its second. Since 1987 ICEL have been discussing a 3rd edition! In 2000, as part of Jubilee celebrations, Pope John Paul II announced that the 3rd edition would be prepared and from 2002 – 2010 ICEL have engaged with bishops conferences to produce this 3rd edition.

The process (1987 – 2010) has not been without controversy. The style of translation has been strongly influenced by the 2001 document ‘Liturgicum Authenticam’.

In March 2010, the final text was recognised by the whole church as the new norm for all English speaking congregation, and at their meeting in June 2010, the Irish Bishops press release stated that they ‘welcomed the recent completion of the translation of the Third Edition of The Roman Missal and its approval by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Bishops look forward to its final editing and its use at Masses in Ireland towards the end of 2011. Bishops will engage in diocesan and parish programmes to help our congregations to understand and appreciate the new translation of the Mass so that the changes will serve, in the words of the Holy Father, “as a spring board for

a renewal and deepening of Eucharistic devotion all over the English speaking world”.’

Limerick diocese

The Diocese of Limerick began to consider the impact of these developments last Autumn. Our concern has been to ensure there is clarity, opportunity for dialogue and awareness: that by Spring every priest, and by next September every Mass-going Catholic, in Limerick is aware of what’s happening.

Our clergy have now had two information gatherings about the text, and the Diocesan Liturgy Commission has been mandated to prepare resources for parishes. Information evenings for those who lead liturgy, will be held in Pastoral Areas in May 2011; so that every parish will have resources and a diocesan timetable that they can engage with from September – November 2011.

Working together

While the universal Church sees this process as one that was highly consultative, with almost a decade of debate – it will, of course, still be a surprise to many. Therefore we encourage priests and parishioners to engage with the text itself when opportunities to do so arise. As with any translation that is to serve millions of people across five continents, it requires re-reading, discussion and reflection.

As we engage, it might also be helpful to realise that we Catholics are only at the early stages of praying publically in our English. This translation is the 3rd in 40 years, there will be more to come. Each one is a step on our journey, and attempt to ‘rekindle the amazement’, to get to the heart of the mystery of God-with-us.

Let us continue to pray for each other as we learn.