## THE MASS

'Do this in memory of me'

What is to be done?	What ritual is used?	What are the roles in the assembly?	low i	mpor	rtant	is it t	c
			1	2	3	4	
Introductory Rite	<b>Opening Procession</b>	All sing while ministers process or gather		Š			٦
Gathering God's people	Greeting	Priest & people dialogue				ę	_
3 , ,	Penitential Rite	Priest [& Cantor] and people dialogue			é		_
Becoming one in heart and voice	[Gloria]	Whole assembly participates		ģ			
Preparing to listen	Opening Prayer	Priest leads prayer; all assent with 'Amen'					
The Wend	First Reading	Reader proclaims; all listen					
The Word	Psalm	Psalmist sings; all respond		Ş			
Recalling God's great works for us	[Second Reading]	Reader proclaims; all listen					
• Opening our hearts	Gospel Acclamation	All sing [C. may lead] while ministers proces	s &				
	THE GOSPEL	Deacon or Priest proclaims and all listen					
Remembering our story	Homily	Priest/Deacon 'breaks the word' and all liste	า				
<ul> <li>Feeling our heart burn within us</li> </ul>	[Profession of Faith]	All recite [or sing]					
<ul> <li>Breaking and sharing the word</li> </ul>	General Intercessions	{ Reader announces intentions;					
<ul> <li>Praying for all humanity</li> </ul>	(Prayer of the Faithful,	lall pray in silence and then respond				ę	
	Bidding Prayer)	Priest concludes and all assent with 'Amen'					
The Eucharist	Preparation of Altar & Gifts	People bring gifts while all sing or listen			ę		
	rieparation of Altar & difts	[If no song, P. may say prayers, all respond]			9		
From word to thanksgiving	Prayer over the Gifts	Priest leads prayer; all assent with 'Amen'	+				-
<ul> <li>Fulfilling the Lord's command to</li> </ul>	EUCHARISTIC PRAYER:	Thest leads player, all assent with Ameri					_
'Do this in memory of me'	Proclamation:						
• Recalling his death, his resurrection,	dialogue & preface,						
his coming again	thanksgiving, institution,	The priest proclaims the prayer on behalf				é	
	intercessions, doxology	of the whole assembly, which shows				8	
Becoming one with his sacrifice	Assent:	its assent by singing the acclamations					
<ul> <li>Receiving God's gifts</li> </ul>	preface dialogue responses	its assembly singing the accidinations				ૃ	
	Sanctus, Mem. Acc, Amen		ķ				
	Lord's Prayer	All pray together	•				
	Peace	Priest/deacon invites and all exchange peac	e			+	-
	Breaking of Bread	During the breaking the 'Agnus Dei' is sung			6		
	COMMUNION	All process to communion; a song is sung		é	Ť		
	Silence after communion	No music or speaking!					
	{Or: Thanksgiving hymn	All sing ]		[ 6]			
	Prayer after Communion	Priest leads prayer; all assent with 'Amen'					_
Concluding Rite	Blessing and Dismissal	Priest [& deacon] and people dialogue					•
Going in peace to love	Exit Procession	All sing [or listen] while ministers depart			é	1	-
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## What is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is based on what the Church teaches about the Mass.

Most people don't have time to read the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, the main source for this leaflet, or don't know where to get hold of a copy, or might be put off by the look of it. So the information needed by those who lead the music, or those who simply want to know, is not widely enough available.

The Bishops' Church Music Committee has produced this leaflet to make it easier to absorb. It takes the official statement that 'singing at Mass is of great importance' and applies it to the situations in which we find ourselves. Resources of time and people are in short supply in our parishes, and choices have to be made about where to put our energy. It is important to know what to choose, which parts, according to the Church, should be sung so that we can respond to the Word and give thanks to God most worthily.

If you ask people what the main sung parts of Mass are, many will say 'the hymns'. Hymns are all many people experience, so that is a reasonable answer. It can be a surprise to hear that to sing hymns at Mass is a quite recent development and that you could have a perfectly good sung Mass with *no* hymns.

The five columns are a way of showing this. The columns go from the most important parts (1) to the least (5). They serve as a checklist, so that if for instance you are not singing anything in columns 1 or 2 you need to re-assess your priorities. Some of the placings in 4 & 5 are recommendations rather than firm prescriptions, but overall this scheme provides a way of learning the 'shape' of the Mass so it can truly be an encounter with God.

- Column 1 shows a Mass with no hymns. This lets us see the *most important* parts to sing: the Gospel Acclamation and the Acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer. Why these? Because they allow us to acclaim the presence of Christ in his Gospel and on the altar, at the two most solemn moments of the Mass.
- Column 2 adds some more pieces to the basic core. The Opening Song is intended to unite us and open our hearts to hear God's voice. The Breaking of Bread and Communion songs express our unity in the Christ we receive. The Gloria allows us to express our praise as a community. The Psalm Response puts on our lips words that sum up the day's scripture.
- Column 3 can be added next as opportunity permits. The Penitential Rite is particularly appropriate to sing in Lent and Advent when there is no Gloria. At the Preparation of the Gifts (no longer called 'Offertory') there may be a song, instrumental music or silence. The Final Song can send us out inspired but it isn't essential it's not in the Missal!
- Column 4 is getting into the sphere of dedication to duty! A priest needn't feel obliged to sing the Eucharistic Prayer but if he can do it sometimes he should. A sung response to the Intercessions can concentrate the minds of those praying.

Column 5 is for the angels.

## Singing

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What parts of the Mass should be sung?
What is the purpose of each part?
Who does what, and when?

Music Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> General Instruction on the Roman Missal (2005), paragraph 40.