

Celebrant's Guides: Mass

Setting up the Roman Missal



This guide concerns [*The Roman Missal*](#) currently in use in England & Wales, also available in photo-reduced form as *St Luke's Daily Missal*.

A priest celebrating Mass may need to use the following pages, indicated here by page numbers prefixed by “p”. In practice, an experienced priest will only need markers at those places picked out in **bold**. There is no need to set a ribbon where one section follows on immediately from the previous page. If a priest *sings* the Mass, the musical settings may be found elsewhere, and the alternative references are given [*like so*] – the Missal actually has a sequence of pages numbered in square brackets, which can be found inserted between p512 and p513.

1. The Greeting – p386 [1].
2. The Penitential Rite – this begins on p390 [2] unless the priest wishes to bless holy water on a Sunday, in which case p387 is needed (the rite is duplicated on pp 992-994, with some additional antiphons which may be useful).
3. The Gloria, when needed, is on p396 [4].
4. **The Opening Prayer** will be found in one of the following places – refer to the Diocesan [*Ordo*](#) to find out what is to be celebrated on any given day:
 - Each individual day of **Advent** (pp 2-34), **Christmastide** (pp 36-71), **Lent** (pp 74-135), the **Sacred Triduum** (pp 136-218) and **Easteride** (pp 219-283) has its own material – this is called **Seasonal** material. *But memorias of the saints outrank seasonal weekdays except in Lent, during the octave of Easter (i.e. the eight days beginning on Easter Sunday), and between 17th and 31st December inclusive. For saints' days, see overleaf.*
 - Don't be caught out by these movable feasts: Baptism of the Lord (p70), Trinity Sunday (p356), Corpus Christi (p358), the Sacred Heart of Jesus (p360), the Immaculate Heart of Mary (p567), or Christ the King (p352).
 - Each **Sunday** of Ordinary Time has its own proper material (pp 287-354).
 - On days with no special saint or other celebration, any ordinary Sunday material may be used, but it is customary to use that of the most recent Sunday.
 - Votive Masses (i.e. those said voluntarily on ordinary days to give particular honour to some sacred person or mystery) use special material found on pp 854-870; use pp 690-698 for 'Our Lady on Saturday'.
 - Ritual Masses (i.e. Masses including celebrations of various sacraments and other rites) use special material found on pp 752-788.
 - Masses for the Dead (for funerals and anniversaries) use special material found on pp 872-909, though this duplicates material found in the green *Order of Christian Funerals* which would often be used for funerals.
 - Masses for “Various Needs and Occasions” use special material found on pp 790-852.

- When a saint is celebrated, look up the appropriate date: the calendar of dates through the year spans pp 521-683.
- National patron saints have extra material found on pages 1* to 32*, inserted between p912 and p913.
- Diocesan patron saints may have extra material in other booklets. In Arundel & Brighton, the most recent edition is *Our English Saints* (yellow cover), which may also refer to material in *Diocesan Propers: Mass & Divine Office (Diocese of A&B)* (green cover).
- Saints added to the calendar since the Missal was published will not have their own material. In this case the **Common** for the appropriate category of saint is used: pp 686-749. This is also the place to go in order to celebrate a saint who doesn't have material for their own feast day, e.g. a local patron.

5. The Liturgy of the Word: p397 [5].

6. The Creed: Nicene p398 [6], Apostles' p399.

7. The Prayer of the Faithful is not normally taken from the Missal, but pp 995-1004 include a selection of texts. [7]

8. The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins on p400 [8].

9. The Prayer over the Gifts is from the same place as the opening prayer except when the rubrics for the opening prayer direct you to a **Common** in a different place. It is permitted (see p520) to use a prayer for the current season instead of material from a common.

10. The Eucharistic Prayer begins on p402, but the priest will never use this page unless he relies on seeing the musical score for *The Lord be With You*, etc. – the words found here are also printed with each preface.

11. The Preface is found on one of pages 404 to 484 [11-95]; note that each preface has a serial number from P1 to P81, indicated by the capital P. So “Preface P23” is not page 23 of any book, but the P23 which happens to be on page 426. To learn which preface should be chosen for a particular purpose, read through the whole set and note the rubrics at the top. *But*, some Eucharistic Prayers have built-in prefaces, which – except for EP II – must be used when that particular prayer is used. The optional preface for EP II is on p493, the mandatory preface for EP IV on p503.

12. The Eucharistic Prayer immediately follows (or includes) the Preface. Only four are found in the Roman Missal: **I** (p485) [97], **II** (p493 with preface, p494 [104] without), **III** (p498) [109] and **IV** (p503 [115], starting with the mandatory preface).

13. The Communion Rite begins on p508 [122].

14. The Prayer after Communion is from the same place as the opening prayer except when the rubrics for the opening prayer direct you to a **Common** in a different place. It is permitted (see p520) to use a prayer for the current season instead of material from a common.

15. The Concluding Rites are on p512 [126].

16. Instead of the simple blessing, the priest may use a **Solemn Blessing** (pp 364-377) or **Prayer over the People** (pp 378-384) [127].

Antiphons

The Missal provides antiphons which can be said or sung at the entrance, and at communion (nominally at the moment when the principal celebrant consumes the Precious Blood). These usually come from the same place as the Opening Prayer, or from the Common referred to by the Opening Prayer rubric. If the celebrant is relying on the altar missal for this, it must be open at the appropriate place; a ribbon then guides the celebrant to the greeting and penitential rite, if so required.

Other Eucharistic Prayers

Other Eucharistic Prayers, when required, are found in supplementary books.

- ▶ [*The Eucharistic Prayers Arranged for Concelebration*](#) (McCrimmons, ISBN 0-85597-652-7) contains Eucharistic Prayers I-IV, Reconciliation I & II, Various Needs & Occasions A-D, and Children I-III; it may be used also by the principal celebrant, but contains some significant typographical errors.
- ▶ An [older book](#), sometimes in a softback green cover, contains the prayers for Reconciliation and Children.
- ▶ [*Various Needs & Occasions A-D*](#) is available in a flimsy paper edition from the Bishops' Conference Liturgy Office.

CHECKLIST

You have probably set up the Missal adequately if you have marked the following:

- ▶ Opening Prayer
- ▶ Preparation of Gifts (p400)
- ▶ Prayer over the Gifts and Prayer After Communion
- ▶ Preface
- ▶ Eucharistic Prayer
- ▶ Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People

Warning!

Beware! Some parishes use a book called the "[Sacramentary](#)", usually in a red or orange binding, which is from the USA. The page numbers and layout do not match those in the England & Wales Missal.

The Latin texts on pp 916-991 have been superseded by the most recent edition of the Missal, not yet translated into English. When celebrating Mass in Latin, use the new [Missale Romanum](#).

The *General Instruction on the Roman Missal* (pp xiii-lxxxiii) has been superseded by [the edition](#) published by the England & Wales Bishops' Conference in 2005.

Other material in the Missal:

You may find the following to be of use:

[General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar](#) (pp lxxxiv-xcvi)

Prayers of Preparation for Mass: pp 1017-1019.

Prayers of Thanksgiving after Mass: pp 1020-1023.

Mass Without a Congregation – a rite which is modified for the absence of a congregation, but which assumes one server – the ‘minister’ – is present: pp 513-518.

Additional musical scores for Mass settings: pp 1005-1016.