

The Ministry of Music



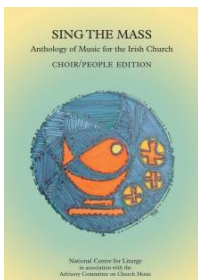
1. Will I have to change anything I do?

Musicians are one of the most important groups of people who can help to make this change in the way we celebrate Mass work smoothly. Since the most important parts of the Mass to sing are the congregational responses, a change in the text of Mass parts affects choirs immediately. Also because there will be a new translation of texts such as the Gloria and the “Holy, holy” there will be new music settings of the Mass, and revised versions of existing ones.

Singing the new texts is going to be a **great help for the people** in getting to know them quickly, so musicians will need to spend time learning new music and preparing it for the people. If you belong to a group that does not rehearse very often, or even at all, this is a good opportunity for you to get together with the other musicians and singers to make sure that you all know what the new music is and how it goes, so that you can help the people become familiar with it too.

This isn't the first time this has happened. The last time we had a change of texts like this was in 1972-73, when the *Gloria* and *Sanctus* texts we currently use were introduced among others. And before that, there was a whole period from 1966 to 1970 when the Mass was changing into the vernacular and lots of new music and hymnbooks came along. So — we know we can do it, because we have done it before!

Where will I find the new texts and music?



This anthology of music for the Irish Church is a resource for all involved in music ministry and for all who gather to celebrate the Eucharist. In conjunction with the publication of the third edition of the Roman Missal, it includes new settings for the Mass, as well as previously used settings e.g Bodley, O'Carroll, Lourdes Mass that have been amended in line with the revised translation.

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- Lectionary texts like the Responsorial Psalm are not going to change for a number of years, and the Lamb of God will remain the same, so there will still be some familiar ground. Now might be the time to look again at the responsorial psalms included in our diocesan hymnal and to include some new psalms in your choir's repertoire.

Food for the soul!

- Notice that a number of the new Prefaces end with words similar to “...as we sing the hymn of your glory/praise, without end we acclaim” or “we sing to you with all our hearts, crying out as we acclaim”. This is a call to everyone to sing! Make sure that you are ready to come straight in with the “Holy, holy”.

- In Eucharistic Prayer I for Reconciliation: "...made fully into a new creation, we shall sing to you with gladness the thanksgiving of Christ, who lives for all eternity."

The New Translation - Biblical influences

As we use the new translation, we will perhaps notice more biblical connections than we have been used to. The texts of the Mass are precious to us, partly because they were inspired by the bible. These words have come down to us over the centuries, and most of the words we speak at Mass are rooted in the bible. When we gather for Mass, we are praying with words that have been given to us by our ancestors, who knew the bible well and prayed it well. The revised translation tries to make the connections between the bible and the Mass clearer than it is now. It will also mean that we will have some new music for Mass, to take account of the changes.

How to choose what to sing?

Singing really adds to our celebration of liturgy – music lifts our hearts and our spirit, and as St. Augustine said, 'To sing is to pray twice'. As we prepare to sing our responses with some new words, let's focus again on congregational singing.

When choosing our music for our Sunday celebrations, let's remember what our priorities are around music at liturgy. The first place to start is with the Alleluia, the Holy, holy, the Memorial acclamations and the Great Amen at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. Then add the opening hymn and communion hymn.

Let's try to get all singing the parts of the Mass as we start this new translation of the Roman Missal together!

Useful websites

- www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com
- www.icelweb.org/ICELMusicIntroduction
- www.iancallanan.com
- www.npm.org/planning - offers music suggestions for every Sunday of the year



Focal Scoir

We cannot be whole without music.

Music is not a decoration applied to the liturgy, like icing in a cake.

Music is not an ornament on a liturgy that is substantially intact without it.

Music is an integral part of liturgical celebration

because it is an integral part of a whole human communication, of a full rich human celebration

Robert Hovda