

Some time ago now, the texts of the Mass changed. You probably noticed!

Since then, we have been encouraged to pray the texts as printed in the Missal, without deviation, hesitation or (undue) repetition (cf. *Composers' Guide* paragraphs 19 & 21, details below). But to help us keep singing some of the principal prayers of the Mass (for example the Sanctus or the Gloria) the Bishops gave permission, when we were singing, to use musical settings of the previous translation. In other words they provided us with time to introduce new settings of the new translation, and to do so in a measured and progressive way.

But this permission to continue to use musical settings of the old translation was for a transitional period. And that period is now coming to an end. From Pentecost 2014, 8th June, it is no longer permitted to sing the pre-2010 texts. So if you have not already introduced new musical settings of the current Missal texts this is the time to do so.

## First Steps

- **Find out what your Diocese recommends you sing.** The intention of any recommendation from your bishop or his Liturgy Commission is usually to help establish a common repertoire in the Diocese, especially so that when people come together from different parishes for Diocesan or other Masses there are Mass settings that all will know and can sing.

Do not be afraid to adapt the recommended setting to your musical resources and personnel. For

example, don't attempt a 4-part setting if you always sing in unison; add actions to the Missal chants to introduce them to children; metricise and play with a beat and guitar accompaniment if your music at Mass is usually led by a worship band. Please ignore the latter two suggestions if your congregation prefer a simpler chanted form!!

- **Talk to other church musicians**, especially in local parishes and schools, to find out what others are singing. Check out the discussions on the Society of Saint Gregory forum. See also what training events are being provided locally by the Society or your diocese - check with your Society Diocesan Rep (look under Membership at [www.ssg.org.uk](http://www.ssg.org.uk)).
- **Once you have an idea which settings you are interested in, familiarize yourself with those settings.** You can often find ready access to them online: check publishers' websites for soundclips and digital downloads; and don't forget to search YouTube.

## Second steps

Once you know what is out there your task is relatively straight forward.

Make sure the basics are in place

- That your congregation becomes familiar with any nominated 'diocesan' setting
- That this is complemented by their becoming familiar with others that are in local use; complement your congrega-

tion's musical 'style'; or 'work' with your musical resources.

Then gradually expand your repertoire, so as to have settings available for the more festive seasons of Easter and Christmas; the more sober seasons of Lent and Advent, and settings that you keep for the Ordinary weeks of the year.

## Some suggested settings to meet particular needs

If you are looking for a single parish setting to be played and sung by various musical groups, those which work well so far seem to be **Christopher Walker's *New Celtic Mass*** and **Alan Smith's *Pershore Mass***.

If your congregation likes hymn-style settings try **Peter Jones' *Parish Mass*** or **Malcolm Archer's *Mass of Saint Peter***; if they like folk-style settings try **Dan Schutte *Mass of Christ our Saviour*** or **C. J. Olding's *Freedom Liturgy***.

If your congregation does not like anything new, you could find that using a revised setting will work well for you. But be warned, it is easy to stumble over new words set to familiar tunes, so confident clear leadership is essential. **Marty Haugen's *Mass of Creation*** and **Richard Proulx's *German Mass*** have been revised quite successfully.

If your singing is led by a cantor then they can lead any of the call-and-response settings, such as **Christopher Walker's *In Pace Acclamations***. Choirs (singing unaccompanied or accompanied by guitars or organ) will enjoy the **Psallite *Mass at the Table of the Lord*** and the **Margaret Rizza *Mass of Saint Benedict***; **Bob Hurd** and **Ken Canedo** offer a gospel sound in their

***Mass of Glory***; and **Curtis Stephan's *Mass of Renewal*** suits a worship band; **John Ainslie's *Chant Mass*** fulfils its brief for those who appreciate this style, and good instrumental parts are available for several settings including **Tony Alonso's *Mass of Joy and Peace*** and **Nick Baty's *Seanathair***.

## Making copies available to your music groups

In the first instance you may find it most helpful to distribute the music in sheet form. If so, do remember that the music and text are copyright, and that you have obtained the appropriate permission for any photocopying from the publisher or their Copyright agency (eg Decani or CCL, details below)

This may also prove a good time to invest in a new hymn or service book, or at least a supplement to your existing book. If you prefer the printed word, invest in a collection of settings. Decani Music publishes ***Glory to God*** containing new settings and the ***Laudate*** supplement where settings are mainly revised version. ***Celebration for Everyone***, available from McCrimmon combines new and revised settings.

When it comes to teaching new settings to the congregation, you may wish to provide them with printed sheets, but often it is better to help them learn the music 'by ear'.

## Links and resources

- **The Bishops' Conference website - [www.romanmissal.org.uk](http://www.romanmissal.org.uk)** - is provides a range of resources for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Roman

Missal, It includes *The Roman Missal: The Order of Mass — A Guide for Composers*, which is useful for all parish musicians and liturgical minister helping all to understand why we sing when we sing what we sing during Mass. Further resources are available on the Bishop Conference's Liturgy Office website - [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk)

- **The Society of Saint Gregory** provides a range of resources available at [www.ssg.org.uk](http://www.ssg.org.uk) The Society's on-line **Forum** offers a setting for you to raise questions and get advice from others.
- **Music publishers websites** provide a wealth of resources, as well as being convenient places to order music
  - Decani Music  
[www.decanimusic.co.uk](http://www.decanimusic.co.uk)
  - GIA  
[www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)
  - McCrimmon  
[www.mccrimmon.co.uk](http://www.mccrimmon.co.uk)
  - OCP  
[www.ocp.com](http://www.ocp.com)
  - Nick Baty  
[www.conceptmusiconline.com](http://www.conceptmusiconline.com)

- CJM Music  
[www.cjmmusic.co.uk](http://www.cjmmusic.co.uk)
- Edwin Fawcett  
[www.edwinfawcett.com/](http://www.edwinfawcett.com/)
- Martin Foster  
[www.bearmusic.info](http://www.bearmusic.info)
- Royal School of Church Music  
[www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)
- Wheatsheaf Music  
[www.wheatsheafmusic.co.uk](http://www.wheatsheafmusic.co.uk)

Whenever changes are being made to our parish pastoral practice there are opportunities to offer catechesis to the congregation. Printed catechetical and liturgical resources that are useful for this work include:

- *How We Pray the Mass* by Allen Morris, published by McCrimmons. An introduction to the languages of the Mass, and the new translation of texts from the Ordinary of the Mass (mostly those for the people/congregation)
- *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts* by Paul Turner. An explanation of the new Translation of the Ordinary of the Mass
- *At the Supper of the Lamb* by Paul Turner. A more detailed pastoral and theological commentary on the Mass.

# Keep Calm and sing the Mass



*Keep Calm and sing the Mass* is a formation resource published by the Society of Saint Gregory.

Content by Frances Novillo (Music Co-ordinator at the Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great in High Barnet, and Regional Music Adviser for the Royal School of Church Music) and Allen Morris (Chairman of the Liturgy Commission of Westminster Archdiocese and a Trustee of the Society of Saint Gregory). All © Society of Saint Gregory, 2014.

Society of Saint Gregory Registered Charity Number 1103280 [www.ssg.org.uk](http://www.ssg.org.uk)