

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

II THESSALONIANS 2:13-17



God of all knowledge,
whose wisdom unfolds for us
the meaning of the world
in which we live,
be the inspiration
and the end of all our efforts
to know, learn, and teach.

Through the seeds of inquiry and wonder
which you have implanted,
may we continue to grow in your wisdom.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

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Excerpts from *Celebrating the Mass* and all other texts and layout

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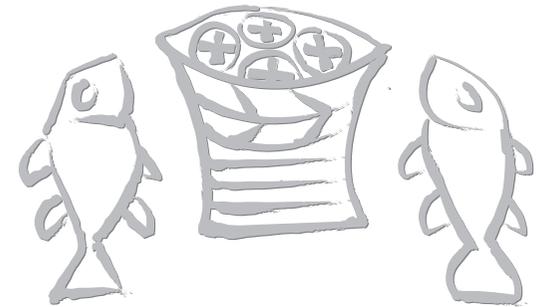
This leaflet is one of series for liturgical ministers on the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* produced by the Liturgy Office, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PL.

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M041

General Instruction of the Roman Missal & Celebrating the Mass

A reading guide for Teachers



*Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth
and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.*

Ps 24:4-5

The Eucharist is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does.

At its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, who continues his saving work among us. The Second Vatican Council reminded us: ‘the most holy Eucharist holds within itself the whole spiritual treasure of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Passover and our living bread’. (cf. *One Bread One Body* 3)

All who exercise a liturgical ministry need a proper preparation for their responsibilities. They are to have the competence to perform the particular ministry with which they have been entrusted. (cf. *Celebrating the Mass* 29)



This leaflet is one of a series of leaflets prepared for liturgical ministers to help them refresh their understanding of their role at Mass. The series draws on the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Celebrating the Mass*, a document of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

It is one of the collection of resources produced by the Liturgy Office to assist the work of liturgical renewal in England and Wales.

What the Church says about...

It is the duty of pastors, in particular, to promote dignified celebrations, paying the proper attention to the different categories of persons: children, young people, adults, the elderly, the disabled. They must all feel welcome at our gatherings, so that they may breathe the atmosphere of the first community of believers who “devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”

Spiritus et Sponsa 12

The *Directory for Masses with Children* recognises that Mass may need to be accommodated to the needs of children when they constitute a significant proportion of the assembly. This does not suggest composing rites that are altogether special or different from the Order of Mass as it is usually celebrated. One of the purposes of specially prepared Masses for children is to lead the children to the celebration of Mass with adults, particularly the Sunday Mass of the community.

Celebrating the Mass (CTM) 136



The *General Instruction on the Roman Missal*

aims both to offer general guidelines for properly arranging the Celebration of the Eucharist and to set forth rules for ordering the various forms of celebration.

GIRM 21

It recognises that there are more specific guidelines which apply to particular categories of celebrations of Mass — for Masses with children the provisions of the *Directory for Masses with Children* apply.

The *Directory* is underpinned by the *General Instruction* and a knowledge of the *Instruction* will provide a foundation for understanding and applying the *Directory*.

Celebrating the Mass is a pastoral guide to the celebration of Mass prepared by the Bishops of England and Wales and addressing the particular situation and needs of the Church in their dioceses. It is intended to assist people in their understanding of the Liturgy of the Mass, and to be a companion to GIRM.

Most teachers will probably find it most fruitful to begin by reading *Celebrating the Mass* and then to read again the *Directory for Masses with Children*. There is also every advantage in anyone with responsibility for preparing liturgy to be familiar with the *General Instruction*, in particular Chapter II on the structure of the Mass.