

General Instruction of the Roman Missal *Celebrating the Mass*

Formation — Preparation & Planning

Preparation

It is hoped that the introductory days provided for dioceses in London and Leeds will have helped Bishops and their principal co-workers in the area of liturgy and formation identify any particular matters that require addressing. Such matters might include the Liturgy of the Word; the Communion Rite; presiding skills; or general liturgical formation.

It will take little time to introduce GIRM and CTM. If progress is to be made in areas that need more attention, much more time should be given to attending to these.

A preparation group might consist of members of the diocesan liturgy commission, adult formation team and those responsible for ongoing clergy formation.

A group may like to address the following questions:

- Who needs to know about the documents
 - Clergy
 - Lay Liturgical Ministers
 - Assembly
- What information/ formation do they need?
- What is the current level of liturgical formation?
 - Clergy
 - Lay Liturgical Ministers
 - Assembly
- What opportunities does the introduction of the documents offer

There is a handout [R011] to assist this process — it may help to articulate different experiences and expectations.
- What areas of the liturgy might be addressed?

The list of sheets dealing with issues arising from GIRM might be a starting point.
- Which of the resources will help in this task?



Planning

Having identified areas/issues to be addressed:

- How will the areas/issues be explored and developed in all its aspects?

Some dioceses will choose to use specific resources: for example, all parishes invited to take up With Hearts and Minds and/or In Communion with Christ in Autumn 2005 as a way of providing general liturgical formation across the dioceses.

Some will have identified particular areas for development: silence, for example. The discussion sheet might be distributed to parishes for consideration by the liturgy group; extracts from the leaflets for In Communion with Christ provided for people's reflection; a reflection leaflet might be prepared for readers, musicians and other ministers, the diocesan commission might look at how liturgies with the bishop model best practice.

Other dioceses might wish simply to provide opportunities for general reflection and renewal to liturgical ministers.

Some dioceses might draw these strands together. If the Liturgy of the Word, for example, is identified as part of the liturgy to be concentrated on there might be work not just readers but musicians and liturgy preparation groups. Parishes might be encouraged to take on In Communion with Christ and set up Homily reflection groups. There might be formation/reflection available on preaching for clergy. Those involved in catechesis might explore the Lectionary as a resource for catechesis. With Hearts and minds might be used as the way of establishing parish small groups regularly meeting to engage with the word.

The clearer the expectations are, the easier it will be to prepare and offer the formation.

- What connections are there with other current diocesan projects?
- What format should the initial formation take?

Will there be formation for clergy alone initially or clergy and laity together? Different dioceses have different patterns of working. The areas/issues identified may affect the format of the formation.

- What follow up will there be?
- How will the process of formation be evaluated?

Practical

- Booking Venues/ Hospitality/ catering
- Publicity/ Registration
- Making copies of documents available (beforehand or at the meeting)
- Preparation and copying of handouts etc.

Liturgy/Prayer

- If there is to be celebration of the liturgy on the day – either Mass or Liturgy of the Hours – do make sure that the celebration models best practice, in the musical choices made, in the use of celebration, and in the quality of presidency.

Pointers

- What are your expectations of prior knowledge?
- For each section what do you want people to know?

One of a series of resources produced by the Liturgy Office of the Bishops' Conference to accompany the publication of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Celebrating the Mass* © 2005 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources

R020

**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

