

# The Place of Silence

## Questions for Groups

The following questions are offered for a group which wished to explore the document *The Place of Silence* together. They are intended to look at some of the issues and reflect on current practice. The discussion may lead to a desire to develop silence in the celebration of Mass and this can be done by using the document 'Formation for Silence'.

The questions are intended to open up discussion. The person leading the group will need to decide how long to take overall and whether to adapt or omit some of the questions.

### Introduction 1

Up to, and including, the paragraph 'St John Paul saw that pastors...'

- Where do you experience silence in your life?
- What helps or hinders your use of silence?

### Introduction 2

From 'The Liturgy as the "source and summit"...'

- How important is silence within Mass to you?

### Silence in the Celebration of Mass

- In your parish's celebration of Mass where are times of silence experienced?
- What helps or hinders them?

### Silence in the Introductory Rites

- What helps you 'come together as one' in the Introductory Rites?

### Silence in the Liturgy of the Word

- Where is there silence in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word?
- How does it give time to listen to God speaking through his word?
- What might help people engage more deeply in reflecting on the word.

### Silence in the Liturgy of the Eucharist

- "everybody listens to [the Eucharistic Prayer] with reverence and in silence' — what do you hear when the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed?

### Silence in the Communion Rite

- What are the ways that you experience silence in the liturgy as a shared, corporate activity.
- How does the silence after Communion prepare you to be sent out at the end of Mass.

### Silence before the Celebration of Mass

- How does the parish show its hospitality before the celebration of Mass?

### Fostering Silence

- What other liturgies are regularly celebrated in the parish?
- How do they foster silence?

This resource was prepared to accompany *The Place of Silence*. [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources)