

For all those involved in

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. 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 to make sure that you all know what the music is and how it goes, so that you can help the people become familiar with it too.

If you do not know where to find the new material, there will be people in your parish and diocese who can help you. Don't be afraid to ask around.

In addition, publishers have been preparing new editions of hymnbooks that will include settings of the new texts, so it's worth having a look at what is in their catalogues and on their websites. Those hymnbooks will include both brand new settings and revisions of settings that you may already use, and there will also be Mass settings available separately. The National Centre for Liturgy has published *Sing the Mass*, a collection of new masses by Irish composers as well as revised settings of existing masses.

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!

And if you belong to a group that sings ‘paraphrase’ settings, where the words of the Mass that you sing are not exactly like the version that are printed in the missalette, this is a great opportunity to for you to move to other settings that more closely reflect what the Church has been asking us to do for quite a long time: ensure that we all sing the same texts, the Church's official texts, so that when different groups of people or congregations come together they have a common repertoire and can all sing together.

Lectionary texts like the Responsorial Psalm are not going to change for a number of years, and the Alleluia and Lamb of God will remain the same, so there will still be some familiar ground.

As well as changes to texts that we sing, there will also be changes to texts that we speak; so make sure you know what they are so that you can give a strong lead to the people!

2. Are there any texts in the Mass that speak especially to my ministry?

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”. Try to avoid long introductions, as it should flow naturally from the priest’s invitation.

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.”

3. What other aspects of my ministry could I look at?

Probably much of what has been said above will be sufficient. But you might consider joining the Irish Church Music Association, which hosts a Summer School in Church Music each July in Maynooth. This is a week where musicians from around the country meet and sing together, learning lots of practical resources and get lots of advice. Chat to other musicians about what they do – we practically never get to hear other musicians play and sing, as we’re involved in our own mass.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Our national Liturgy Office website:
www.liturgy-ireland.ie

The Irish Church Music Association:
www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com

Knockadoon Folk Liturgy Course:
www.knockadoon.net

The national Liturgy Office of England and Wales:
www.liturgyoffice.org.uk

Publishers’ websites:

GIA Music: www.giamusic.com/sacred_music

OCP Publications: www.ocp.org

Decani Music: www.decanimusic.co.uk

Veritas Publications: www.veritas.ie

WLP Publications: www.wlpmusic.com