

1. Let us pray

Preparatory Session

+In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.



In spirit and in truth
material for small groups

Leader

In spirit and in truth



Welcome



Listen to Scripture

Why do I come to Mass?

Possible responses:

- Obligation
- To be community
- To meet people
- To make space each week for God
- Time out from routine
- Time for prayer
- To set an example to my children
- To be challenged afresh
- To give thanks
- To be a minister

Possible supplementary questions:

- If there was no obligation would you come?
What would draw you?

What do I bring to Mass?

Possible responses

- Myself
- My talents, gifts
- My experience of life
- My last week
- Joys and sorrows, hopes for the future
- Care for other people, for children

Possible supplementary questions:

- What do I expect from Mass?
What do I receive?

Listen to Scripture

They remained faithful to the teachings of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. And everyone was filled with awe, the apostles worked many signs and miracles. And all who shared the faith owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and distributed the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. Each day, with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Our Experience

- Why do I come to Mass?
- What do I bring to Mass?
- How would I describe the current (1973) translation of the Order of Mass?
- What are my first impressions of the new translation?

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How would I describe the current (1973) translation of the Order of Mass?

- Possible responses*
- Plain, simple, straightforward
 - Prayerful
 - Banal

Possible Supplementary Questions

- Are there phrases that you call to mind in prayer?

What are my first impressions of the new translation?

- Possible responses*
- Richer, formal
 - More complicated
 - Prayerful

Possible Supplementary Questions

- What qualities should liturgical prayer have?



Read & Reflect

 Use BOBOSC

The following video excerpts could be used alongside or instead of the passage:

Receiving the English Translation > Introduction (3:51)

Receiving the English Translation > Challenges and Opportunities/Opportunities arising from the New Translation (5:00)

Celebrating the Eucharist > Introduction (2:34)

Exploring the Mass > Theological Reflections section — The Received Tradition (3:04)

Read & Reflect

CELEBRATING THE MASS

1. At the heart of the life of the Catholic Church has always been the celebration of the Eucharist, or the Mass, as Catholics often call it. Taking part in the Mass is the hallmark of the Catholic, central and crucial to our Catholic identity. The first Christians devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to their 'communion' with each other and to prayer, and met together in their homes for 'the Breaking of Bread'. Over the centuries, Catholics in many countries have risked their lives in order to celebrate Mass in times of persecution. Their courageous faith remains an inspiration and example to the Catholic community today. For Catholics now, as in the past, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available 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.'

For Discussion

- New words, deeper meaning, same Mass.
How do you usually respond to change?
- Can you describe a celebration of Mass in which you felt fully engaged?
- In what ways do you take part in the Mass?

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1. Preparatory Session

How do you usually respond to change?

Possible responses

- With hope
- Badly, at first
- I need to know why change is happening.
- It depends

Possible supplementary questions:

- What helps?
- What hinders?

Can you describe a celebration of Mass in which you felt fully engaged?

Possible responses

- My daughter's wedding.
- When the bishop came.
- A quiet weekday Mass
- Pilgrimage

Possible supplementary questions:

- next question...

In what ways do you take part in the Mass?

Possible responses

- Singing, praying, being there
- Being a minister

Possible supplementary questions:

- Which words & actions in the Mass are particularly important for you?



Act

A question for the preparatory period is included in the Leader's Notes.

Act

- Take a few minutes to prepare for next Sunday's Mass – reflecting on your week, and what you bring to the celebration. After Mass, reflect on what particularly stays with you, how you participated, and how the Mass might affect your life and the choices you make this week.



Prayer

O Lord, ruler and guardian of your Church,
pour out, we pray, upon your servants
a spirit of truth, understanding and peace,
that they may strive with all their heart
to know what is pleasing to you
and then pursue it with all their strength.
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.

or

O God, who have taught the ministers of your Church
to seek not to be served,
but to serve their brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray,
that they may be effective in action, gentle in ministry,
and constant in prayer.
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.

Prayer

See Notes.

Gather

- Light a candle(s) and/or time of silence:
In the name of the Father...
Let us begin our time of prayer with a few moments silence.
- Sing a song or chant about the Church, Sunday, Praise of God, or Baptism (for example the refrain *We come to share our story* or *Ubi Caritas* (Taizé)).

Listen

- to Acts reading again

Respond

- Time of silent reflection
- Invite people to name concerns for prayer.
Don't forget to include the group itself and its forthcoming time together.
- Ask for God's blessing on the community and the forthcoming time of change.
- The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

- Leader:
*The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.*
- All: *Amen*

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