

Department for Christian Life and Worship

Liturgy Office Annual Report 2005

Staff

Fr Allen Morris and Martin Foster continue as Liturgy Office Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively. Since January 2005 Pam Class has been the Administrative Assistant for the Office.

Information

Liturgy Newsletter

The *Liturgy Newsletter* is produced 4 times a year and is distributed via diocesan liturgy contacts as well as on the website. The Newsletter provides an opportunity to highlight work in particular areas such as the Year of the Eucharist.

Website – www.liturgyoffice.org.uk

The website is part of the Conference website but is maintained by the Office. The website continues to expand. To deal with the growing number of pages a search facility has been added. One significant development has been a section devoted the liturgical rites listing the approved editions for England and Wales together with downloadable copies of the Introductions to the Rites and links to other resources. The largest addition was the resources developed to support the publication of the General Instruction. Information was added for people suffering from the Coeliac condition. The material prepared by the Office to mark the death of John Paul II and the election Benedict XVI was well received. Prayer and Liturgy resources were also made available for Make Poverty History, the end of the Second World War, the London Bombings and the Synod of Bishops. The facility the website offers for people to email queries to the Liturgy Office is used frequently.

Magazine Subscription Service

The Office continues to manage a service making available subscriptions to many of the excellent English language liturgical periodicals available around the world.

Diocesan Liturgy Contacts

There is one such Contact in each diocese and they form the primary conduit for information to diocesan liturgy commissions and others. There is an annual meeting held each year in February. The contacts and other members of diocesan commissions also meet in North and South groupings twice a year.

Publishers

The Office has engaged with the following publishers in the last year: CTS, Canterbury Press, Continuum, HarperCollins, John Neale, Redemptorist Publications, McCrimmons.

Media

AM is regularly sought out for comment by the Catholic and national media. He writes a popular weekly column for *The Universe*.

Formation

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

Celebrating the Mass

With Hearts and Minds

The three texts were published by Catholic Truth Society in April. *With Hearts and Minds* is a course for small groups reflecting on our participation in the Mass prepared by the Office. Prior to publication three training sessions were held in Leeds and London for those responsible for liturgy, adult education and ongoing formation of clergy. As well as presenting the documents participants were introduced to the range of resources that had been prepared by the Office. Participants were given the set of material on a CD-ROM; subsequently it was all made available on the website. [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM]

The Resources included: *In Communion with Christ* which complements *With Hearts and Minds* but is for whole parish and includes a guide to preaching; *Ministry leaflets* which include both extracts from the documents and material for prayer and preparation; *Handouts* and other material for providing formation; *Opportunities and Challenges* which looked at in greater detail some of the issues that arise from the documents. Also prepared was material for deanery groups.

Year of the Eucharist

Resources for the Year of the Eucharist were provided on the website including a guide to exposition and resources for Holy Hours. Material was provided in September for parishes in response to the Holy Father's request that communities pray for the Synod.

The Gift of Scripture

To assist the reception of the Bishops' teaching Document the Office prepared a number of resources that are available on the website. [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Scripture]

A Time of Prayer

Celebrating Sunday Evening Prayer

A Time of Prayer was published by Catholic Truth Society in January. It is a very simple form of the daily office which can be used by individuals or groups.

The Department has approved publication of the resource *Celebrating Sunday Evening Prayer* which is expected to be published in 2006.

Spirit of the Season

A half-termly liturgy bulletin for schools that is distributed via dioceses and the website. The current year's issues look at liturgy and technology, the use of the arts, the liturgy bookshelf among other items. An index of the first 5 years' issues has been added to the website.

Working with dioceses and organisations

AM and MF have worked with or in the following dioceses and organisations in the last year: Brentwood, Hallam, Middlesbrough, Northampton, Portsmouth, Southwark, Westminster, RCIA Network and Society of St Gregory.

Future Work

Current projects include the preparation of resource to assist with the work of Liturgy Preparation and the preparation of a companion volume to Celebrating the Mass which will describe the place of liturgical time in the celebration of the Liturgy.

Martin Foster

Allen Morris

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