

Understanding the Mass Hymn Book

Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.

Today our topic is the **Hymn Book**.

Last week, we reflected on our welcomers, the people who greet us when we enter the church. These welcomers may offer you a **hymn book** when you enter the church.

The word **hymn** comes from the Greek word *humnos* (“an ode or song of praise to God”) and we use it to describe the special music that we sing for God.

Hymns are a wonderful way to unite our thoughts, our prayers and our voices together.

The hymn books we use in church help us to sing many different hymns throughout the year without needing to remember all the words by heart!

Hymns are inspired by God’s teaching. Many of them are based on parts of the

Bible, or the teachings of Jesus. Hymns come from all over the world. Some of the hymns you will find in your hymn book are hundreds of years old - there are even some hymns that we still sing in Latin, which is the traditional language of the Catholic Church.

There are different hymns that we sing especially during particular times of the **liturgical calendar** - a term we use to describe the church year - and so our hymn books are divided into these parts of the year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter etc.

1. What is your favourite hymn? _____

2. What colour is the hymn book in your church? _____

3. Can you see the numbers for the hymns you will be singing today? _____

What are they? _____

