

Understanding the Mass Roman Missal

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 **Roman Missal**.*

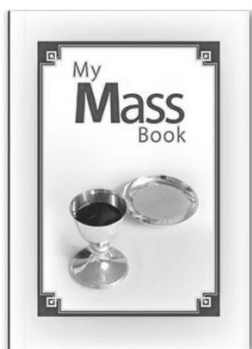
At Mass, the priest uses a book of prayers called the **Roman Missal** (in Latin: *Missale Romanum*), This is a special kind of book that contains the texts that are prayed by the priest and people every time we come to Mass. It includes all the prayers of the Mass - the parts of the Mass that do not change and the prayers for the particular day, or the Mass being said. The Missal also has red text that tells the priest what actions he should do in different parts of the Mass, such as holding his hands or genuflecting.

The first book with the name *Missale Romanum* was published in 1474. It was written in Latin. Nearly one hundred years later, after the Council of Trent, Pope Pius V promulgated (officially announced) an edition of the *Missale Romanum* to be used throughout the Roman Catholic Church all over the world.

Since that time, there have been seven new editions of the Roman Missal, which have reflected changes in the way the Mass is celebrated (such as moving from Latin to the local languages of each country following the Second Vatican Council), as well as the addition of new prayers and new feast days (as new saints are canonised).



The most recent translation of the Roman Missal into English took effect in 2011, following the publication of a new Latin edition of the Roman Missal in 2002. As Cardinal Arthur Roche explained at that time: "In the new translation we find a text that is more faithful to the Latin text and therefore a text which is richer in its theological content and allusions to the scriptures...a translation which, I believe, will move people's hearts and minds in prayer."



You may also see people with their own missals at Mass. There are missals for Sunday Mass, and for daily Mass. And there are also special missals that have been written for children, which provide explanations for the parts of the Mass along with the prayers.

What colour is the missal the priest uses? _____

Do you have your own missal? _____