

Understanding the Mass

The Gloria

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 **Gloria**.*

Following the Penitential Rite, we now give glory to God in a powerful song of joy and praise known as the **Gloria**, which is the Latin word for “glory”. Since the Gloria is a hymn (song) of praise to God, whenever possible, it is encouraged to be sung, rather than just said.

The Gloria is one of the Church’s most ancient hymns, and has been a part of the Mass since about the sixth century! It is also used in Eastern Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican liturgies.

In the Gloria, we pray to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We stand throughout the Gloria as a sign of our respect and attentiveness, and of our desire to praise God, who we recognise and celebrate in this special prayer as our lord and king.

Can you find these things in the words of the Gloria below?

- Words sung by the angels to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus
- Our belief in the Holy Trinity
- The names of the three persons in the Holy Trinity
- The different ways we pray to God

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You,
we give You thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father,
who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

