

Understanding the Mass

The Collect

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 **Collect**.*

The **Collect** is the last part of the Opening Rite of the Mass. Also known as the Opening Prayer, this the moment after the Gloria that starts when the priest says: "Let us pray".

After a few moments of silence - which give us a moment to consider what we want to pray for especially in the Mass - the priest will collect (gather) our intentions into one prayer. At the end of this prayer, we all respond "Amen," a Hebrew word for "So be it."



The Collect is one of the prayers in the Mass that is proclaimed by the priest alone. These prayers are known as the *presidential* prayers.

The word *presidential* come the same two Latin words: *prae* ("before") and *sedere* ("to sit"). To preside over something is to lead it, and the priest leads the Mass because he is acting in the person of Christ.

By a most ancient tradition of the Church, presidential prayers have a *trinitarian* structure. This means that they are addressed to God the Father, with and through God the Son, in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit. The Collect is addressed by the priest to God in the name of the entire Church and on behalf of the whole congregation.

Find these words: opening, presiding, priest, God, Jesus, Spirit, rite, amen

Z	A	B	Y	P	R	A	Y	E	R
O	C	J	X	R	D	W	E	V	F
P	R	E	S	I	D	I	N	G	Q
E	T	S	G	E	S	H	R	I	A
N	B	U	C	S	P	I	R	I	T
I	D	S	E	T	F	G	I	H	J
N	K	L	Z	M	Y	N	T	U	O
G	O	D	Q	R	A	M	E	N	Z