

Supplementary Reading

GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

- 55 The main part of the Liturgy of the Word is made up of the readings from Sacred Scripture together with the chants occurring between them. The Homily, Profession of Faith, and Prayer of the Faithful, however, develop and conclude this part of the Mass. For in the readings, as explained by the Homily, God speaks to his people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and offering them spiritual nourishment; and Christ himself is presenting the midst of the faithful through his words. By their silence and singing the people make God's word their own, and they also affirm their adherence to it by means of the Profession of Faith. Finally, having been nourished by it, they pour out their petitions in the Prayer of the Faithful for the needs of the entire Church and for the salvation of the whole world.
- 67 The purpose of the Symbolum or Profession of Faith, or Creed, is that the whole gathered people may respond to the word of God proclaimed in the readings taken from Sacred Scripture and explained in the homily and that they may also call to mind and confess the great mysteries of the faith by reciting the rule of faith in a formula approved for liturgical use, before these mysteries are celebrated in the Eucharist.
69. In the Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in a certain way to the word of God which they have welcomed in faith, and exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. It is fitting that such a prayer be included, as a rule, in Masses celebrated with a congregation, weighed down by various needs, for all men and women, and for the salvation of the whole world. (SC 53)

CELEBRATING THE MASS

155. The proper celebration of the Liturgy of the Word involves many elements and several ministers, but care is necessary so that the many human words and elements do not obscure the divine word itself.
157. In the Scriptures the community of faith even now hears God speaking to it. For this reason the biblical readings and their accompanying Scripture chants may not be omitted, shortened, or replaced by non-biblical texts.
160. A brief prayerful silence is observed before a reading as the assembly prepares to listen to God's word. A somewhat longer period of silence is observed after the reading, allowing all to ponder on the word spoken. It is often preferable for the reader

In spirit and in truth

to remain at the ambo during the silence. If this is not practicable, care should be taken that the prayerful silence is established before the reader moves from or to the ambo, and that their movement does not break the silence.

161. ...the psalms have been used to give prayerful expression to the faith and feelings of God's people over the centuries. They were used by Christ himself in prayer. In these words of wonder and praise, repentance and sorrow, hope and trust, or joy and exultation the Church now responds to God's word. The psalms in the Lectionary have been selected to help the assembly to meditate on and respond to the word that has just been proclaimed.
166. The people stand to hear the Gospel reading and acclaim Christ present and speaking to them....
167. The Homily is an integral part of the liturgy and a necessary source of nourishment for the Christian life.

Further Reading

Understanding the Revised Mass Texts

(Paul Turner, LTP/
McCrimmons, 2011)

- Pages 16–23: The Liturgy of the Word, the Profession of Faith

Bibliography

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium

Liturgiam Authenticam
on the use of Vernacular Languages in the Publication of the Books of the Roman Liturgy (5th Instruction for the Right Implementation of SC)

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)
CTS London, 2005

Celebrating the Mass
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CTS: London 2005)