

'And with your spirit' & Dialogue for Preface

Today we introduce a change into our Mass texts. This change will affect our responses throughout this Mass and all future Masses.

A common greeting in the Mass in Latin is '*Dominus vobiscum*' with the response '*Et cum spiritu tuo*'. We usually say: '**And also with you**'.

A more accurate translation of the Latin is '**The Lord be with you**' with the response '**And with your spirit**'. This matches the response already existing in most other major languages including Italian, French, Spanish and German.

In the early Church this was a common greeting. For example St Paul writes to the Galatians 'May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit' 6:18. We find similar greetings in the Letters to Timothy, (2 Tim 4:22) Philippians(4:23) and Philomen(1:25)

This greeting expresses a desire that the Holy Spirit be present in the priest and in the community as they gather for worship. For St Paul the spirit is the spiritual part of a person that is closest to God, and the receptacle of the Spirit of God. When we say '**And with your spirit**' we are wishing the priest the presence of the Holy Spirit within him as we celebrate this Eucharist.

In the Dialogue for the Preface

There is one other change in the Preface Dialogue. (Draw attention to cards)

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right and just.

This response will be echoed by the priest as he then prays the new Prefaces which will begin '**It is truly right and just ...**'. The priest's parts will change later in the year. For the moment we are learning the changes for the people.

Be ready to participate in these two changes at this Mass.